

A
TOUR
THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE OF
France;
OR,
NEW TOPOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL
SKETCH
OF
ALL ITS MOST IMPORTANT AND INTERESTING
CITIES, TOWNS, FORTS, CASTLES, PALACES,
ISLANDS, HARBOURS, BRIDGES, RIVERS,
ANTIQUITIES, &c. &c.

INTERSPERSED WITH
CURIOUS AND ILLUSTRATIVE
A N E C D O T E S
OF THE
MANNERS, CUSTOMS, DRESS, &c. OF THE INHABITANTS.

BY JOHN BARNES.

EMBELLISHED WITH COPPER-PLATES.

LONDON:
PRINTED AND SOLD BY WILLIAM DARTON, JUN.
58, HOLBORN HILL.

1815.

PREFACE.

The following pages were originally written as "A KEY TO WALKER'S GEOGRAPHICAL TOUR THROUGH FRANCE;" this is mentioned, to account for the arrangement and succession of the articles, which were placed to correspond numerically with WALKER'S large Map of FRANCE, upon which the instructive and amusing TOUR is made. No inconvenience will result from this order; for, the numbers being still preserved, any particular place sought after may be found by the INDEX, which refers to the number of each article, and not to the page of the book. Though the route supposed to have been pursued by Walker has been generally followed, as taking in the whole of France, yet many alterations have been made in this edition, by leaving out some places of minor consideration, and inserting others of greater importance. In the performance of this task, the limits set me precluded my giving a full description of places noticed—the reader must only expect a Sketch.

It is perhaps unnecessary to add, that I have availed myself of all the best modern information within my reach, have gleaned from various authorities, and concentrated into one point of view all that I supposed would be interesting, and have spared no pains to render the whole correct as to dates, distances, and historical facts.

Though England and France are very near neighbours, yet they are almost strangers to each other; which may be imputed to the state of war, horrid war! in which they have been so long engaged.

It is hoped that a better knowledge of the present state of the country and inhabitants, which it is the object of this little work to diffuse, may tend to lessen national animosity and hostility, and for ever bind together in the gentle bands of peace the two most powerful and enlightened nations in the world!

General Description of France.

FRANCE is a country of Europe, bounded on the N. by the English Channel and the Netherlands, on the E. by Germany, Switzerland and Italy, on the S. by the Mediterranean Sea and the Pyrenees, which separate it from Spain, and on the W. by the Atlantic Ocean. It extends from 4. 48. W. to 8. 22. E. longitude, and from 42. 24. to 51. 24. N. latitude; its length from N. to S. is nearly 700 miles, and its breadth from the easterly part of the department of the Lower Rhine to the westerly part of that of Finisterre is about 650; it is now divided into 83 departments. France has been said to be to Europe what Europe is to the other three quarters of the world; that is to say, the most temperate, the most fertile, the best governed, and the most warlike. The climate is temperate, and the air more clear and settled than in England; but in the southern as well as in the northern provinces the winters are sometimes very severe. The soil is agreeably diversified, and productive of all the necessaries and many of the luxuries of life; it yields corn, wine, oil, salt, a great variety of highly-flavoured fruits, tobacco, hemp, flax, manna, saffron, many drugs, and silk in great abundance. The forests are numerous and extensive, and the mineral productions various and important. The principal rivers are the Loire, Rhone, Garonne, and Seine. The mountains, the Alps, Pyrenees, Cevennes, and Vosges. The animals, wolves excepted, birds, &c. are much the same as those in England. The population is now estimated at twenty-eight millions. All religious sects are tolerated, and there is no one predominant; it is melancholy to perceive the almost total disregard of religion in modern France; the Roman Catholic was the established religion before the revolution. The French are esteemed the most polite people in Europe, though not the most sincere; they are gay and affable, eat less solid food than the English, though greater epicures in their sauces; they are generally well-made and free from bodily deformities, taller than the Spaniards and Italians, but not so tall as the Germans, Flemish and English. Hospitality, a taste for literature, liveliness, national vanity, and inconstancy, are characteristics of the French; the ladies are more celebrated for grace.

fulness and vivacity than for personal beauty. The export trade of France consists chiefly in wine, brandy, vinegar, fruit, corn, salt, hemp and flax, silk, resin, oil, soap, cork, perfumes, drugs, &c. The manufactures are silks in various ways, woollen and linen cloth, lace, paper, soap, and China-ware. The inland traffic is very great, and carried on with little expense by means of the many large navigable rivers and canals; the chief of the canals are those of Languedoc, Calais, and Orleans. At the decline of the Roman power, this country was called *Gaul*, and derives its present designation, according to some, from the Trojan *Francus*, or *Francion*; but according to others, and with more probability, from the *Franks*, a people of Germany, leagued together under this title, signifying *free*; who invaded Gaul, and entirely subdued the country, in 486, under their leader Clovis, whom the French historians call their first *Christian* king, Pharamond being their *first* king in the year 420. The French divide their kings into three races, the Merovingians, Carlovingians, and Capets. Hugh Capet obtained the crown of France in 987; and one of his descendants, Louis XVI. in the year 1793, was executed on a public scaffold in Paris. The revolution and its dreadful consequences are well known; and the rise of Buonaparte; whose ambition aimed at, and in 1804 obtained, imperial dignity. But in consequence of the invasion of France by the Allies, and their successes, Buonaparte, in 1814, abdicated the throne, the Bourbons were recalled, and Louis XVIII. made his public entry into Paris. In less than twelve months, however, the army and the people generally declaring for him, Buonaparte left his retreat in Elba, marched, without opposition, to Paris, again resumed the government, and compelled the aged, unfortunate king once more to become a fugitive.—The French language is so polite, elegant, and easy, that it is more generally spoken than any other in the world; it is formed of the Greek, Latin and German, and is so much esteemed for its purity and neatness, that it is used in all the courts of Europe. Paris is the capital.

TOUR THROUGH FRANCE,

&c.

1. WE commence our Tour, like most other English travellers who embark at Dover, with describing CALAIS, the nearest sea-port town to England, in the department of the Straits of Calais, about 20 miles S.E. of Dover, and 152 almost N. of Paris. The harbour is too much obstructed with sand to admit large vessels, except at high water. In the year 1228 it began to be fortified, and in 1347 was so strong that Edward III. of England could only take it by famine. It was the last town in France that the English kept of the conquests of that monarch. Calais was bombarded by Sir Cloudesly Shovel in 1694, but without sustaining much damage. It has been compared to Dover, but rather resembles Folkestone, is strongly fortified and defended with a citadel. The streets are irregular, the houses old and lofty, and the pavement the worst that can be imagined. The *Grande Place*, however, is large and handsome, and Hogarth's Gate is an object of curiosity. Dessein's hotel, long considered the best in France, still supports its ancient reputation. The market is very plentifully supplied, and provisions are about one half cheaper than in England. There are between 4 and 5000 inhabitants, chiefly fishermen and smugglers. The country round Calais so exactly resembles that of the opposite coasts, as to appear almost a counterpart, and as if the sea had worked itself a channel, and thus divided a broad and lofty hill. It is not improbable, as many ingenious men have supposed, that Great Britain was at one time (a very remote period) connected to the Continent. The agriculture about Calais appears to be wretched; the soil is in general very good, except where the substratum of chalk or marl rises too near the surface. Vegetation seems strong, and trees grow near the cliffs. The revolution has much improved the condition of the farmers, having relieved them from feudal tenures, *corvées* and lay-tithes, for the latter of which a small rate for the officiating minister is substituted.

2. The city of **ST. OMER**, in the department of the Straits of Calais, is 20 miles S.E. of Calais, and 135 N. of Paris. The approach to St. Omer, although flat, is exceedingly beautiful and picturesque; it is situated on the river Aa, is very strongly fortified, and, before the revolution, was the see of a bishop. The city is dull, but the streets are very wide and handsomely built. Formerly there were a great many monasteries, convents and colleges; now there is only one convent remaining, and the monasteries are entirely destroyed. The English College, at one time so celebrated, is now metamorphosed into an hospital. The cathedral is a noble pile, and was built 900 years ago; it was preserved during the revolution by being turned into a granary. The church of St Denis is very handsome; in the mass the responses are made by a bassoon, which has a most strange effect. But the ruin of the abbey of St. Bertin is the most interesting object in St. Omer: it belonged to the Benedictines, was 130 years building, and was a noble and elegant pile before the revolution. In the time of the revolution it was sold, unroofed, and dismantled of all its interior beauties, except two very fine pillars; the walls are standing, which only require the assistance of ivy to form the most beautiful mass of ruins imaginable. The tower is still perfect, in which one man watches during the day and two at night, to give the alarm in case of fire in the city. It has 309 steps to the summit, from which there is a lovely and ample prospect. The nuns of the convent of the Ursulines, the convent being destroyed, dispersed or were imprisoned during the time of terror, and the abbess with some of the sisterhood emigrated into Germany, and suffered incredible hardships; they have now returned and occupy the only convent left in St. Omer, in which they educate the children of the poor without any remuneration, and take pensioners at a very moderate rate. There are excellent and spacious gardens attached to the convent.

3. From St. Omer let us go back again to the coast, and to the N.E. of Calais we shall find **DUNKIRK**, a sea-port in the department of the North, 22 miles S.W. of Ostend. In the year 980 it was surrounded with walls by Baldwin III. Count of Flanders. In 1388 it was burned by the English, and in 1646 it was taken by the French, assisted by the navy of Holland, commanded by Van Trump. In 1658 it was ceded to England by a treaty made with Oliver Cromwell, but when Charles II. sold it to France in 1662, for five millions of livres, Louis XIV. made it one of the

strongest places in Europe and rendered the harbour commodious. By an article of the treaty of Utrecht, it was agreed that all the fortifications should be demolished and the harbour filled up. Since the peace of 1783, after the American war, the harbour has again been cleared, and the fortifications repaired. In 1694 Sir Cloudesly Shovel bombarded Dunkirk, but after having thrown in above 1200 bombs retired without having done any considerable damage. In the year 1793 the English army, under the Duke of York attempted to besiege it, but were compelled to retire. It is the most important town and harbour on the whole coast. By means of a sluice 42 feet wide, the basin within the town will hold 40 ships of the line always floating. Dunkirk is divided into Old and New Town, and is estimated to contain 80,000 inhabitants.

4. Nine miles W.S.W. of Dunkirk is GRAVELINES, a seaport in the department of the North, situated at the mouth of the river Aa. It was built in the year 1160 by Thierry, Count of Flanders, is not large, but well fortified with bastions, half-moons and horn work, with large and deep ditches. The country near it is intersected by canals, one of which goes to Dunkirk by Bourbourg, and another passes directly to Bergues. The harbour was formerly much frequented, and it was a place of great importance before this part of Flanders was annexed to France; it was ceded to France by the peace of the Pyrenees.

5. Let us now proceed to LILLE or LISLE, a city in the department of the North, 130 miles N. of Paris, formerly the capital of French Flanders. This is a large and handsome city, one of the richest and most commercial in France, situated on the river Deule, in a rich and marshy soil, surrounded with walls and strongly fortified by a citadel. The entrance to Lisle has a most singular and striking appearance; there are more than 200 wind-mills about a mile from the city, posted in battle array, and they have the most strange and ludicrous effect that can be imagined: a great quantity of rape is cultivated in the neighbourhood, which they thrash in the fields, and of the seed make oil in these mills. They reckon in Lille, 170 streets, 30 public places, 8000 houses and 56,000 inhabitants; the houses are built of stone, and are lofty and handsome; the streets are regular, wide, clean and well paved, superior to any in Paris. There were here nearly 50 churches, 18 convents, 6 hospitals and 3 colleges; it was divided into 7 parishes and had 7 gates, some of which are admired for their architecture. The manu-

factures are various, chiefly camlets, cloth, ratteens, silk and wool-len stuffs, linen, lace, ribbons, hats, paper, soap, &c. and thread which is here brought to surprising perfection; the camlets are in great esteem all over Europe. The citadel is considered as one of the best works of Marshal Vauban (the best military architect that France, or perhaps any other country, ever produced), and, except Turin, is the strongest in Europe; it has sustained a great many very severe sieges. The town owes its origin to a castle named *Le Buc*, which was the residence of the ancient foresters, or Counts of Flanders, and was first built in 640. Baldwin V., called Baldwin de Lille, surrounded it with walls, and made it his residence. In 1667 it was besieged by Louis XIV. in person, and, being unprovided for a siege, in seventeen days it surrendered. In 1708 it was taken by the allies under the Duke of Marlborough and Prince Eugene, after a siege of three months, with a loss of several thousand men, but was restored at the peace of Utrecht in 1713. In 1792 also, Lille was summoned by the Austrians, under the Duke of Saxe Teschen, and on refusing to surrender it was bombarded but without success; the siege began on the 29th of September, and was raised on the 8th of October, during which time it is supposed that upwards of 30,000 red-hot balls and 6000 bombs were thrown into the city, exclusive of the battering train. It had suffered three sieges previous to any of those mentioned. Louis XVIII. derives his title of Count de Lille from this city.

6. Before we proceed to Valenciennes, let us notice DOUAY, a city, and capital of the department of the North, 15 miles N.W. of Cambray and about 110 N. of Paris, situated on the Scarpe, which is navigable for boats. It has long been celebrated for its English college, whither the Roman Catholics of that nation were generally sent for education. Here the celebrated Chillingworth resided for a short time after his conversion to the Romish religion. Douay was taken by the allies, under the command of the Duke of Marlborough and Prince Eugene, in the year 1710. This siege lasted from the 5th of May to the 26th of June; the garrison, which at first consisted of 8000 men, was reduced to 4527, and the allies lost 8000 men. It was retaken by the French in 1712.

7. VALENCIENNES, is a city, in the department of the North, situated on the Scheldt, which runs through the town in several branches, and here becomes navigable; about 120 miles N. N. E. of Paris. It is supposed to have derived its

name from the Emperor Valentinian I. who laid the foundation of the town about the year 367, endowing it with many privileges and immunities, and particularly that of being an asylum, for debtors and criminals. This privilege, which extended over the greater part of the town, was called *banlieu*, but it has since been limited, to prevent abuse from fraudulent bankrupts and assassins. The town-house is an ancient building of freestone, founded in the fourteenth century; the square or *grande place* is handsome, but the streets are in general narrow, dark and crooked. It contains about 20,000 inhabitants, is a very important place, strongly fortified, and was a depot for English prisoners during the late war; they have greatly promoted the comfort and cleanliness of the place. Near the town is a coal-mine. The form of its municipal government was considered so good as to serve for the model of several republics. In the year 1678, a new and handsome citadel was built, at the expense of the citizens, and other fortifications added. In 1793, Valenciennes was invested and taken by the allies, under the Duke of York, after a very severe siege. The most singular fact in the history of this siege is, that a considerable part of the war was carried on under ground; mines and countermines innumerable, having been formed both by the besiegers and besieged. Those under the glacis and under the horn-work of the fortress, having been completed and charged by the allies on the 25th of July, were sprung between nine and ten o'clock at night, with the most complete success. The English and Austrians immediately made themselves masters of the covered way; the Duke again summoned the place, which surrendered on capitulation the succeeding day, and he took possession of it in behalf of the Emperor. The following year, however, Valenciennes surrendered to the French arms. Considerable stores of every kind, with 200 pieces of cannon, an immense sum of money, 1000 head of horned cattle, and great quantities of corn, were found there. The Emperor is said to have expended 3,000,000*l.* in repairing and improving the fortifications. The principal manufactures are lace, cambric, woollen mits, camlets, &c. The lace is sold here as dear as in England. All this part of France has been called its *iron frontier*.

8. As our route will not lead us nearer we may next describe CAMBRAY, a city, in the department of the North, 17 miles S. W. of Valenciennes and 102 N. N. E. of Paris. Before the revolution it was the capital of Cambresis and the see of an archbishop. It is a large fortified town, pleasantly

situated on the Scheldt, which divides it into two parts, and contained 10 parishes, 3 abbeys, a great many monasteries and convents, and about 3000 houses. The cathedral was anciently considered as one of the most beautiful in Europe; it is now poor and neglected. It has considerable manufactures of lace, linen, leather, soap and cambric, which last took its name from this city. Cambray is principally defended by the citadel which the Emperor Charles V. caused to be built at the expense of the citizens; it is a regular pentagon, the ditches of which are hewn out of the rock, which served to raise the walls and ramparts, and to surround it with five great bastions, defended by half-moons and other fortifications. This place was formerly esteemed the most opulent and commercial of any in the Low Countries; as well as one of the strongest, largest and best situated. On the 23d of April, 1794, the French were defeated at Cæsar's Camp, in the neighbourhood, by the allied army under the Duke of York, with the loss of 1200 men, and 3 pieces of cannon; and the next day, they left 1200 men dead on the field of battle, among whom was their general Chapuy, and 350 officers and privates were taken, together with 22 pieces of cannon.

9. After Cambray, ARRAS deserves notice as a fortified city, and capital of the department of the Straits of Calais, situated on the Scarpe, 94 miles N. of Paris. Before the revolution it was the capital of Artois; it was taken by the French and annexed to France in 1640. This is one of the most ancient cities in the Low Countries, and is divided by the little river Crinchon into the City and the Town, the latter much the largest and most modern. It has a very thick wall strengthened by high ramparts, and a citadel with five strong bastions, surrounded with double and deep fosses, in many places cut out of the rock, all the work of Vauban. The great square is full of fine buildings, surrounded with piazzas. There are 10,000 inhabitants, 11 parish churches, and the cathedral; in the latter was carefully preserved in a silver shrine, enriched with precious stones, a sort of manna which, they say, fell from heaven about the year 369 during a great drought, and which St. Jerome mentions in one of his epistles as having happened in his time. Arras is celebrated for many *popish* miracles pretended to be performed by this manna, when rain is much wanted, as well as at the tomb of St. Wast, and by a candle brought here by the Virgin Mary. It was formerly a bishop's see.

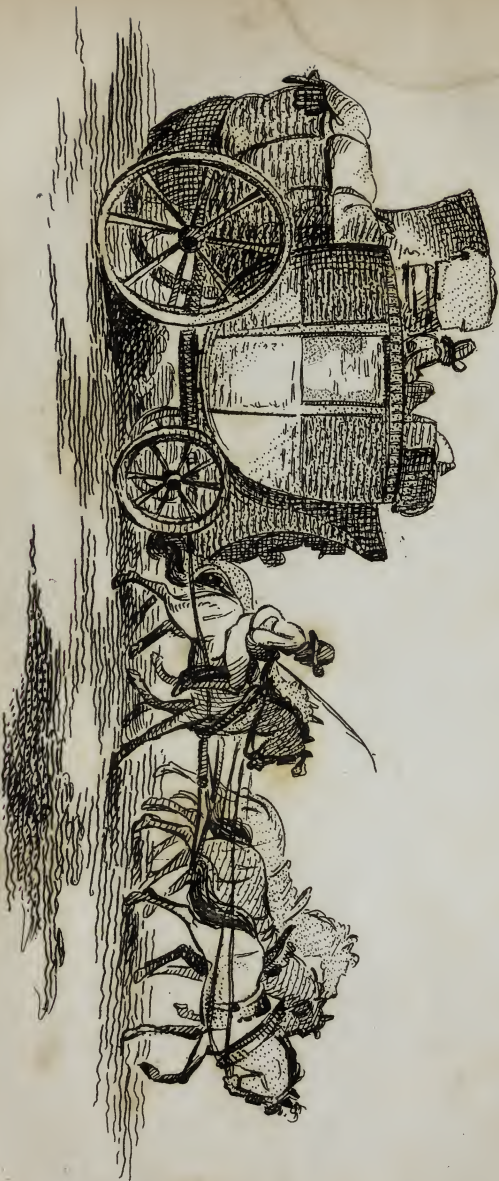
10. AMIENS, a city and capital of the department of the Somme, 75 miles N. of Paris, situated on the river Somme, three branches of which run through it, over which it has three bridges. Before the revolution, it was the capital of Picardy, and see of a bishop. The aspect of Amiens, as it is approached by the road, resembles Canterbury; the cathedral rising above the town, the town as it were gathering round it, as its parent and protector. It has very often been thought to resemble Salisbury. It is clean and lively, and in many respects resembles English towns of the third rate. The cathedral was built by the English in the time of Henry VI. and the regency of the Duke of Bedford. Though strictly Gothic, it is light, and very tastefully ornamented; it infinitely exceeds any cathedral in England, with the exception of Westminster Abbey: the nave is particularly celebrated; it is really as superb and elegant as the imagination can picture. There are also eleven parish churches, an academy of belles lettres, and a citadel built by Henry IV. which is accounted one of the best and most regular in Europe, with a population of 35,000. Though some of the houses are ancient, and the streets narrow, Amiens has not that ruinous and close appearance of other towns on the Paris road. It has been lately new paved, and is, in every respect, one of the cleanest and most agreeable towns in France; the frequent visits and long residence of Englishmen, have produced a very sensible alteration in the manner of living amongst the inhabitants. The general character of the people of Amiens, is, that they are lively, good-humoured, and less infected by the revolutionary contagion than any town in France. There are here manufactories of cloth, carpets, calimancoes and baizes, the three latter chiefly for domestic consumption. Every considerable town in France has its public walk, and Amiens has some of singular beauty. The holiday-dress of the peasantry in this neighbourhood has been thus described: "The greater part of the men wore three-cocked hats, some of straw, some of pasteboard and some of beaver; jackets red, yellow and blue; and breeches of the same fancy colours. The women were dressed in a variety, both of shape and colour, which defies all description; when seen from a distance they had a very picturesque appearance; the sun shining on the various colours gave them the appearance of so many flowers." Amiens is a very cheap town for permanent residence. The towns in France are cheaper for strangers to live in than the villages. In 1597 this city was taken by the Spaniards, by stratagem: some soldiers were sent from the governor of Doullens, in disguise, as

peasants going to sell fruit, and gained admittance, Sunday, March 10th; being soon followed by other troops, the city surrendered. It was soon after retaken by the French, assisted by some English, under General Biron. Amiens is celebrated for the peace with Buonaparte, in 1801, which, unfortunately, was of such short continuance.

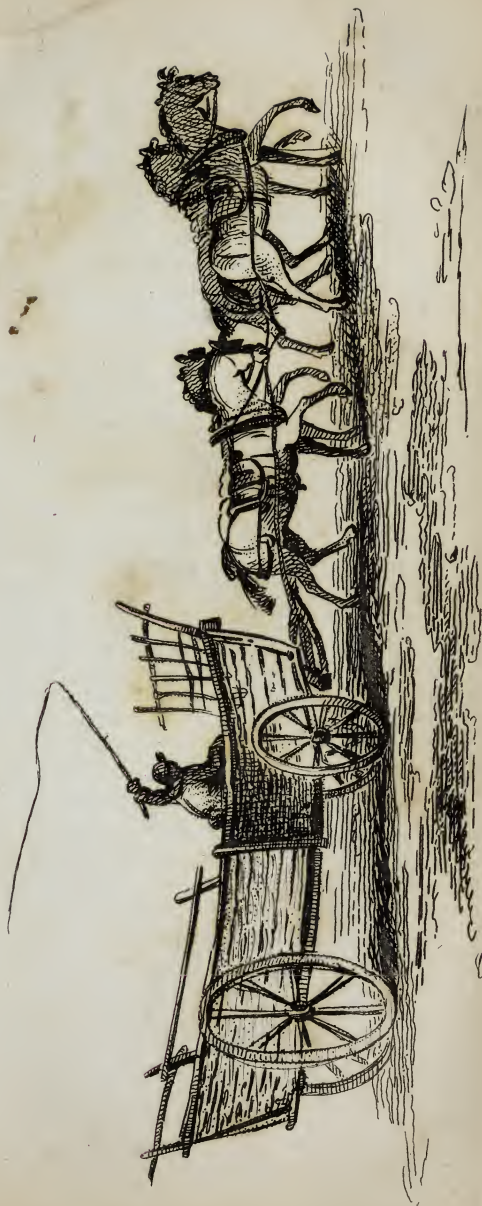
11. We must now return towards the coast to **BOULOGNE**, a city and sea-port, in the department of the Straits of Calais, on the mouth of the Lianne, 14 miles S. S. W. of Calais, and 130 N. N. W. of Paris. It is divided into Upper and Lower Town, the former of which is surrounded with walls, and contains about 400 houses; the latter lies nearer to the sea, is not surrounded with walls, and, from its connexion with the harbour, which has a mole, monopolizes almost the whole of the trade. The harbour is difficult to enter, and the anchorage not good; there is not depth of water for ships of war, and trading vessels must take advantage of the tide. This was a station for the flat-bottomed boats, intended for the invasion of England. Boulogne is very agreeably situated, and the views from the Upper Town are delightful, especially when there is high water in the river; on the Paris side also are a landscape and walk of exquisite beauty; the river, after some smaller meanders, takes a wide reach through a beautiful vale, and shortly after flows into the sea through two hills, which open as it were to receive it. The beach, which is a flat, firm sand, is the favourite promenade in the summer evenings, when the tide serves; this is likewise the parade. The principal church at Boulogne is a good and respectable structure. The people of Boulogne execrate the revolution, and not without reason, as their environs have been in some degree spoiled by its excesses. Several miles on the road, those sad monuments of the popular phrensy, ruined chateaux, and churches converted into stables or granaries, force the memory back upon those melancholy times, when the property and religion of a nation became the but of lawless bands. The town, upon the whole, is clean, lively, brisk and flourishing.

12. Omitting places of inferior note we proceed to **ABBEVILLE**, surnamed *La Pucelle*, because it was never taken, a town in the department of the Somme, 86 miles N. N. W. of Paris, situated on the river Somme, formerly the metropolis of Ponthieu in Picardy. It was fortified in 980 by Hugh Capet. It was the birth-place of Nicholas Sanson,

The Paris Diligence carries 22 Cwt.



A French Cart



Published 13th Oct. 1865 by W. Darton Junr. 38 Holborn Hill London.

Pierre du Val, and Philip Brier, three celebrated geographers. The inhabitants are stated to exceed 22,000. Abbeville is celebrated for its broad cloth manufacture; the buildings of Vanrobais, established by Louis XIV. are upon a very large scale, and the cloths made here are reported to exceed even those made in the west of England. There are also soap, linen and carpet manufactures, though not of much celebrity. Abbeville bore melancholy marks of the revolution; the handsome church destroyed, many of the best houses shut up, others having only one room inhabited and the other floors turned into granaries; innumerable chateaux along the road now only the cells of beggars, or the lowest peasantry.

13. DIEPPE, is a sea-port in the department of the Lower Seine, 30 miles N. of Rouen, and about 64 S. of Hastings in Sussex. It stands at the mouth of the Bethune, with a good harbour, but narrow, having about eighteen feet at high water. English travellers who embark at Portsmouth, Chichester, Brighton, or Hastings, frequently land here. In 1694 this town was bombarded by an English fleet which laid it nearly all in ashes; it was rebuilt nine years after, on the plan of Versailles. There is a brisk trade here in fish, ivory toys and laces, and an extensive tobacco manufacture. Dieppe is a large town, containing about 21,000 inhabitants, the houses are very substantial, but old and shabby looking, with very large windows. Bread, and provisions in general, about half the English price; but the butcher's meat is of a very inferior quality. In the evening the streets, the boulevards, and the bourse, are filled with groups of people of all descriptions, engaged in conversation. There is here more appearance of enjoyment, and less of positive suffering, than one usually meets with in towns of this description, though Dieppe is said to be one of the coarsest places in France. They have a singular, and undoubtedly a very beneficial regulation here; every person who is abroad without a lanthorn, after ten o'clock at night, is taken into custody by the police. The road from Dieppe to Rouen is a magnificent object, wide, well formed and in excellent order; running in a right line for leagues, and planted on each side with apple and pear trees. The cross roads to the right and left are marked by similar rows of luxuriant fruit-trees, as far as the eye can reach. No hedges, and few villages or habitations in sight. About 9 miles N. of Rouen, a different scene opens; descending suddenly into a beautiful valley, full of noble houses and manufacturing establishments. A French road is like a

garden in the old French style, seldom more or less than a straight line ruled from one end of the kingdom to the other. No angles, no curvatures, no hedges. Imagine a road made over a heath, and each side of it fenced off by a railing of hurdles, and you will have no imperfect idea of a great French road. Within a mile indeed of a principal town the prospect usually varies and improves. The road is then planted on each side, and becomes a beautiful avenue through lofty and shady trees. However some of the cross roads, not only equal, but greatly exceed English roads of this description, in natural beauty and scenery. The approach to Rouen is noble; every object denotes prosperity and comfort.

14. ROUEN is a large, rich, populous and stately city, the capital of the department of the Lower Seine, 69 miles N.W. of Paris, situated on the Seine, and surrounded with mountains. Before the revolution it was the capital of Normandy, and an archbishop's see. It is seven miles in circuit, and is calculated to contain 73,000 inhabitants. The streets are narrow, crooked and dirty, and the houses are mostly built of wood; notwithstanding which, it is one of the most opulent, commercial, and important places in France. The principal public buildings are the great hall of the palace, in which the parliament of Rouen formerly met, the old castle, and the cathedral. The cathedral, which has three towers, is one of the most magnificent monuments of Gothic architecture in France. Rouen contains upwards of 7,000 houses and 36 parish churches, and is a principal seat of the cotton manufacture; it is in fact the Manchester of France. Formerly there were 40 convents in Rouen; they are mostly now the property of individuals and are applied to a variety of useful purposes. That of the Benedictines, a noble structure, is the *Hotel de Ville*. The libraries of the other convents have been collected and deposited in this building for public use. It is open five days in the week; a splendid gallery of pictures, collected in the same manner, is also open, and *really* open to the public. The garden formerly belonging to this convent, is kept in good order, and forms an agreeable promenade. In the market-place is a statue of the Maid of Orleans who was burnt here by the English for a witch. The suburb of St. Sever communicates with the city by a bridge of boats, which rises and falls with the tide, and is made to open so as to admit the passage of ships; it is paved, and is 270 paces long. The two Corneilles and Fontenelle were born in Rouen. Besides the cotton manufacture there are others of

cloth, and one of oil of vitriol, the only one in France. In 1418 Henry V. began a siege, which continued five months, during which time the inhabitants defended the city nobly, and endured the most severe hardships, but were at last compelled to surrender, on condition of paying 345,000 crowns of gold to the conqueror.

15. LOUVIERS, is a handsome, fortified town, in the department of the Eure, 12 miles S. of Rouen, and 10 N. of Evreux. It is seated in a fertile plain, on a beautiful clear stream, the river Eure, of which full advantage appears to be taken for working the machinery used in the fine cloth manufacture for which Louviers is so famous. Here are several noble establishments for spinning woollen yarn, finishing the cloth, &c.; and the shearing machines perform their office with the greatest precision. The French appear to be wide awake to mechanical improvements; indeed the quality of the cloth proves their skill too well to leave a doubt of the excellence of their implements. The work people, of whom women form by far the principal part, appear very decent and comfortable. From Rouen to Louviers is an enchanting country. The valley of the Seine, in breadth, beauty and fertility, is almost unequalled.

The river SEINE rises about two leagues S. of Aigny le Duc, in the department of the Côte d'Or, and, flowing by Chatillon, Bar, Troyes, Nogent, Melun, Paris, St. Germain, Rouen, Caudebec, &c. falls into the English Channel at Havre de Grace.

16. We now turn to the west to pursue our route along the coast, and notice HAVRE DE GRACE, a sea-port, in the department of the Lower Seine, 48 miles W. of Rouen, situated in a flat, marshy soil, at the mouth of the Seine. Francis I. erected it into a town, and called it *Ville de François*, which was afterward changed to the name it now bears, on account of a chapel and the harbour formed by the mouth of the river. The harbour has particular advantages above all others on this coast; the water does not begin to ebb till three hours after the full tide, which gives an opportunity for a great number of ships to depart in the same tide. This is attributed to the current of the Seine which crosses the mouth of the harbour. The basin is reserved for ships of war, with sufficient room for thirty, and depth for vessels of 60 guns. Before the revolution it was the seat of a governor-general, and other officers; it contained two churches, three convents, an hospital, and town-house; and an

arsenal, magazines, &c. necessary for equipping ships of war. It is defended by lofty walls, large ditches filled with water and furnished with sluices, and a regular citadel with bastions, &c. In 1694, it was bombarded by the English fleet, under Lord Berkeley and Captain Benbow, and several houses destroyed; and in 1759 it was again bombarded by Lord Rodney, and set fire to several times, and a great number of flat-bottomed boats destroyed, that were intended to bring troops over to invade England.

17. CAEN, a city, and capital of the department of Calvados, is 65 miles W.S.W. of Rouen, and 125 W. of Paris, on the rivers Orne and Odon. It was once the capital of Lower Normandy, with an university founded by Henry VI. of England and renewed by Charles VII. and an academy of the belles-lettres. The castle, the wall, and four towers here, were built by the English; the *Place Royale* was the most beautiful of all Normandy, large, regular and well paved, and surrounded on three sides with fine houses. In the year 1346 it was besieged and taken by Edward III. after a severe contest, and the loss of a great number of lives. William the Conqueror lies buried here.

18. CHERBOURG, a sea-port, in the department of the Channel, is 44 miles N. of Coutances, and 185 W.N.W. of Paris, situated at the bottom of a large bay, between Cape Barfleur and Cape La Hague, containing about 6000 inhabitants. Formerly it was the seat of a governor and admiralty; it pretends to great antiquity. Ship-building and the woollen-stuff manufacture form the principal employment of the inhabitants. English travellers, embarking at Weymouth and other ports of Devon and Cornwall, sometimes land here. In 1758 the town was taken and plundered by the English, the port destroyed, and the ships burned in the harbour. This port has always been considered by the French as an object of great importance, and immense sums have been expended in constructing piers, deepening and enlarging the harbour, and erecting fortifications. Vessels of 900 tons can be admitted at high water, and those of 250 at low. About half a mile from the town is a cliff or rock of prodigious height, from the summit of which, they say, King John, in a tempestuous night, with his own hands, threw his nephew Prince Arthur into the sea, which then flowed at the foot of the rock.

19. COUTANCES, is a city, and capital of the department of the Channel, 185 miles W. of Paris, situated near the sea, once the seat of a governor, and a bishop's see, with a fine cathedral, at the consecration of which William the Conqueror assisted; The population is about 5000; they carry on a brisk trade in grain, butter and cattle, and manufacture some woollen and linen cloth.

20. Thirty miles S. of Coutances, in the department of the Channel, is the city of AVRANCHES. It is situated on a mountain, at the foot of which flows the river See, one mile and a half from the English Channel. Before the revolution it was a bishop's see, and besides the cathedral had three parishes, a convent, a public school, a college and an hospital. The cathedral stands on a hill, which terminates abruptly, the front of the church extending to the extreme verge of it, and overhanging the precipice. It bears the marks of high antiquity, but the towers are decayed in many places, though its original construction has been wonderfully strong. In this church Henry II. of England received absolution from the papal nuncio for the murder of Thomas-à-Becket, and the stone is still shown on which he knelt during the performance of that ceremony. The ruins of the castle of Avranches are very extensive, and beneath lies a rich extent of country, covered with orchards and abounding in grain. Avranches is an ancient town, of very mean appearance; before Bretagne was united to the crown, it was called the *Boulevard*, or Bulwark, of France; yet the Bretons took it and destroyed the fortifications in 1203: however, in the reign of St. Louis they were rebuilt.

21. On this coast, in the Bay of Avranches, 7 miles S.W. of the city of Avranches, is the celebrated MONT ST. MICHEL. This extraordinary rock, for it is no more, Nature has completely fortified on one side, by its craggy and almost perpendicular ascent, which renders it impregnable. The other parts are surrounded by walls, fenced with semilunar towers in the Gothic manner, sufficiently strong to resist any attack. The road to it is entirely across the sands, which are only passable at low water. At the foot of the mountain begins a street or town, which winds round its base to a considerable height. Above are chambers in which prisoners of state are confined, and on the summit is the abbey, built in the form of a cross, occupying a prodigious space of ground, and of a strength and solidity equal to its enormous size. In the reign of Childebert II. (708,)

there was a bishop of Avranches, named St. Aubert. To this holy man the archangel Michael was pleased to appear one night, and order him to go to this rock, then uninhabited and covered with wood, and there construct a church. St. Aubert, who seems to have been a little incredulous, treated it as a dream; the angel came again, repeated his injunction, and, not being obeyed, the third time he, by way of imprinting it on the bishop's memory, made a hole in his scull, by touching it with his thumb. Here fable ends; and history informs us, that Richard the second duke of Normandy began to build the abbey. It was completed in 1070, under William the Conqueror. It has thirteen pillars on each side, nine of 25 feet in circumference, which stand upon the solid rock; and over the centre of the church is a large square tower. They all seem to be built as if designed to outlive the ravages of time and the convulsions of nature. The treasury of the church was crowded with innumerable relics; the good bishop's scull, in a shrine of gold, with a chrystal over the orifice, an immense golden cockle-shell, and an arm of SAINT *Richard*, king of England, are worth mentioning. The number of pilgrims who used to resort to this place, and that not long ago, annually amounted to 10,000. The chambers of the abbey are so numerous, that 13,000 troops might be disposed of there without inconvenience; and the subterranean chambers in the mountain are also so numerous as to be unknown to the guides themselves.

There are certain dungeons, called *Oubliettes*, into which they were accustomed formerly to let down malefactors guilty of very heinous crimes; they provided these wretches with a loaf of bread and a bottle of wine, and then they were totally forgotten and left to perish by hunger in the dark vaults of the rock. It was long considered as a state-prison, and there are many tales of cruelty, blood and horror told of it. There was a cage preserved here, in a dungeon, composed of prodigious wooden bars; the wicket for admission was 12 inches thick, the space it comprised was 12 feet square and about 20 feet high, which was the abode of many eminent victims, whose names and miseries are now forgotten.

The *hole of Montgomeri* is another curiosity of Mont St. Michel. In a corner of one of the chambers there is a kind of window; between it and the wall of the building was a very deep space or hollow of near a hundred feet perpendicular, and at the bottom was another window opening to the sea. The Count de Montgomeri, who unintentionally killed Henry II. at a tournament, being driven from his fortresses, retired to a

rock, called the *Tombelaine*, a mountain similar to Mont St. Michel, in having a castle and being accessible only at low water, but a short distance from it; here, with his followers, he lived in security. Being desirous to surprise Mont St. Michel, he found means to engage in his interests one of the monks resident in the abbey, who promised to give him the signal for his enterprise by displaying a handkerchief. The treacherous monk, having made the signal, betrayed him, and armed all his associates, who waited Montgomeri's arrival. The Count came, attended by fifty chosen soldiers, desperate, and capable of any attempt. They crossed the sand, and, having placed their scaling ladders, mounted one by one; as they came to the top, they were dispatched each in turn without noise. Montgomeri, who followed last, at length discovered the perfidy, and escaped again to the *Tombelaine*.

In the year 1090, Robert, Duke of Normandy, and William Rufus, King of England, sons of William the Conqueror, besieged their younger brother Henry a long time in Mont St. Michel. The Prince could never have been reduced to surrender by force; but he was in want of water, and from that necessity was on the point of yielding up the fortress, when Robert, with the benevolence and humanity which marked his character, sent him some pipes of wine; and this succour enabled Henry to hold out. Rufus reproached Robert for his conduct; "Shall we then," said he, "suffer our brother to die of thirst?"—And what return did he meet with from Henry? An imprisonment of twenty-eight years in a vaulted chamber of Cardiff castle, where he expired.—Before the revolution the abbey was a Benedictine monastery, and gave name to an order of knights founded by Louis XI. The town itself is as great an object of curiosity as any other part of the Mount. There are many houses in it upwards of 600 years old; the population in time of peace does not exceed 200. Formerly, upon entering the town, every body was obliged to leave all sorts of arms at the gate; even a knife was not permitted to be brought in.

22. Let us now proceed to ST. MALO, which is a sea-port, and principal place of a district, in the department of Ille and Vilaine, 42 miles N. of Rennes, situated on a small island, joined to the continent by a mole, at the head of which is a strong fort. Before the revolution it was a bishop's see. The harbour is large, and one of the most frequented in France, though at low water almost dry, and at all times difficult to enter on account of the rocks which surround it. Anne of Bre-

tagne, who built the castle, directed the engineer to construct it on the plan of her coach, which was accordingly done : a large square area within constitutes the body ; two small towers in the fore part answer to the fore wheels of the carriage, as two others of a larger size do to the hinder ones ; a projection in front forms the pole, and an arched niche behind corresponds to the place where the servant was used to stand. The place is strong by its situation on a peninsula, being connected to the land only by a narrow mole or causeway of about 700 yards in length ; it has also 250 pieces of cannon mounted on its ramparts, but no out-works, and its fortifications could not sustain a long siege ; but it is strong by nature and art towards the sea. St. Malo has always been a port for privateers, and has, consequently, in time of war, been very troublesome to the trade of England. In 1693 it was bombarded by Capt. Benbow, when some damage was done to the town. Some other attempts have been made, but without success. In the wars of the League, the inhabitants of St. Malo, having surprised the castle, murdered the governor, whom they suspected to be in the King's interest, divided among them his treasures, which were very great, and declared openly for the League.

23. We must notice **ST. BRIEUX**, as a city, and capital of the department of the North Coast, a port, and bishop's see, 50 miles N. W. of Rennes. It is situated among mountains, which intercept the sight of the sea, though little more than a mile distant.

24. **LANNION**, a town in the department of the North Coast, 20 miles N. E. of Morlaix, deserves notice only from the inhabitants here, and in the neighbourhood, speaking the Welch language, which is said to have been brought hither by the Britons in the fifth century.

25. **MORLAIX**, a town and principal place of a district, in the department of Finisterre, is 30 miles E. N. E. of Brest. It is situated on a navigable river, of the same name, with the tide of the English Channel coming up to it, which renders it a place of trade. The harbour is defended by a fort, which stands upon an island. The church is a singular structure and the hospital very handsome.

26. **BREST**, accounted one of the keys of the kingdom, is a sea-port, in the department of Finisterre, about 320

miles W. of Paris, has one of the best harbours in France, and a safe road capable of containing 500 men-of-war, in 8, 10 and 15 fathoms, at low water. The coast on both sides is well fortified; the entrance, called the Goulet, is narrow and difficult, with covered rocks, that make it dangerous to those not well acquainted with it. The town stands upon a declivity, and the streets are narrow and crooked. It contains two parishes and a marine seminary. The arsenal is an immense and superb building, the quay is above a mile in length, and the dock-yards are well constructed. It is the seat of a governor, an admiralty board, and a municipality. In 1694 a detachment of the English fleet was sent to seize on Brest; but, after an unsuccessful attempt to land in Camaret Bay, they were compelled to give up the enterprize, after having lost 700 men, and General Tollemache, who died in consequence of a wound in his thigh.

27. The first of the French islands that we shall mention is **USHANT**, or **OUessant**, an island in the English Channel, in the department of Finisterre, about 12 miles from the continent, and 30 W. of Brest. It is about 10 miles in circumference, and contains several hamlets, and a small port defended by a castle. It has about 700 inhabitants.

28. From Ushant let us coast along to **QUIMPER**, a city and capital of the department of Finisterre, about 35 miles S. of Brest. It stands on the river Oder; and was formerly a place of great importance, a bishop's see, a governor's seat, an admiralty, &c. The walls of this city are so thick as to serve for the promenade.—Let us embark at Quimper, and, sailing by the Glanan or Gilenan Islands, touch at

29. **BELLE ISLE**, an island in the Bay of Biscay, on the western coast of France, about 30 miles S. of Vannes, a little to the N. of the mouth of the Loire. It is nearly 12 miles long, and from 2 to 4 broad, surrounded by sharp rocks, which leave only three fortified passages to reach the island. The soil is various, rocky salt marshes, and fertile grounds. Palais is the capital; it contains three other small towns, and about twenty villages. It was taken by the British in the year 1761, but was restored at the peace in 1763.

30. We can now sail back to **L'ORIENT**, a sea-port and seat of a tribunal, in the department of Morbihan, 80 miles

S. W. of Rennes. It is situated at the bottom of a bay, at the mouth of the river Ponscroff, was built in the year 1720, by the French East India Company, and has a good harbour, though not capable of containing many ships of war. In 1746 an unsuccessful attempt was made upon this town by the British forces under General Sinclair and Admiral Lestock. It contains about 15,000 inhabitants.

31. VANNES deserves mention as a sea-port and capital of the department of Morbihan, 58 miles N.W. of Nantes, and 255 W. by S. of Paris. It stands at the union of two small rivers, which form a harbour in the lake Morbihan. It has two suburbs, one of which is larger than the town itself; before the revolution it was the see of a bishop. The principal commerce is in corn, bar-iron and fish.

32. We may next just mention GUERANDE, a town, and principal place of a district, in the department of the Lower Loire, 40 miles W. of Nantes. It is situated near the sea, and is remarkable for its salt-works.—Let us here again embark, and touch at

33. NOIRMOUTIER, an island in the Bay of Biscay, on the western coast of France, separated from the continent by a strait of about a quarter of a league in width. It lies to the south of the mouth of the river Loire. It has a town of the same name, with a harbour and bay on the eastern coast, which is defended by a fort called *Fort St. Pierre*. This island being a celebrated place of resort for the French royalists of La Vendée, was taken on the 2nd of January, 1794, by the republicans; when 800 royalists were killed, and 1200 made prisoners.

34. DIEU ISLE, or ISLE DE YEU, is a small island in the Bay of Biscay, 15 miles S. of Noirmoutier. This island was taken by the English and French royalists, on the 5th of October, 1795.

35. RE, or RHE, ISLE DE, an island in the Bay of Biscay, near the western coast of France, separated from the coast of Vendée by the Strait of Breton. It lies about 7 miles W. of La Rochelle, is about 16 miles in length, and 3 in breadth. The principal town is *St. Martin de Ré*; the chief products are bitter wine, salt, brandy and aniseed.

36. The next and largest of the French islands is **OLERON**, an island 5 miles from the western coast of France, at the mouth of the river Charente, 15 miles long, and 5 broad. It is separated from the continent by the channel called *Pertuis de Maubuisson*, and from the island of Ré by the *Pertuis d' Antioche*. The town of Oleron is situated on the eastern coast, and is the chief place of a canton, in the district of *Marennnes*. The population consists of nearly 12,000, who are distributed in the town and several villages. The soil is fertile, but the principal part of the inhabitants are seamen. The *Tower of Chassiron*, a light-house, is on the north point of this island, near the coast of France, which has two fires to distinguish it from the Tower of Cordovan. In this island King Richard I. of England composed those maritime laws, which are called the *Laws of Oleron*, and are generally acknowledged by all the powers of Europe as the basis of their marine constitutions.

37. Having landed at *Marennnes*, a sea-port with about 5000 inhabitants carrying on a brisk trade in salt, we push on to **SAINTES**, a city, and capital of the department of the Lower Charente, seated on an eminence, surrounded by the Charente, 26 miles S.E. of Rochfort, and 262 S.S.W. of Paris. It has a harbour for small vessels, and before the revolution was the capital of Saintonge, and a bishop's see. It was a Roman colony; and those conquerors of the earth, who polished the nations they subdued, have left behind them the traces of their magnificence. In a hollow valley, between two mountains, and almost adjoining to one of the suburbs, are the remains of the amphitheatre; though in the last stage of decay, its appearance is august and venerable. In some parts scarcely any of the arches are to be seen; but the east end is still in very good preservation. From its situation in a valley, and from the ruins of an aqueduct which conveyed water to the town from nearly three leagues distance, it has been supposed that *Naumachiæ* were represented in it. A triumphal arch, on which is an inscription in Roman letters, likewise merits attention; it was erected to the memory of Germanicus, on the news of his death, so universally lamented throughout the empire. There are many other antiquities well worthy of inspection and examination. The town has nothing interesting except its remains of Roman grandeur; it is built with great irregularity, the streets are narrow and winding, the houses mean, and almost all of them are some centuries old. The cathedral has been repeatedly defaced and in-

jured by Normans and Huguonots; one tower only escaped their rage, which was built by Charlemagne, and is the largest in all France; it is of enormous magnitude, both in height and circumference.

Though the river *Charente*, which surrounds this city, as the Severn does that of Shrewsbury, cannot compare with the Loire or Rhone in size and depth, yet the actions which have been performed on its banks, in different ages, will render it immortal in history. At Taillebourg, only six miles from hence, nearer its mouth, was fought the battle between Henry the Third of England and St. Louis, where the latter was conqueror, and in which he gave proofs of undaunted prowess and intrepidity, by defending, almost alone, the passage of a bridge against the whole English army during some minutes. Francis the First, one of the most amiable and accomplished princes that ever reigned in France, was born in 1494, at Cognac, only seven leagues higher up on the Charente. Two leagues beyond Cognac, still nearer its source, is the famous plain of Jarnac, where the Huguonots were beaten, in 1569, by the Duke of Anjou; and where the great Louis, first Prince of Condé, was assassinated by Montesquieu.

38. Let us once more descend the Charente, and about 12 miles from its mouth we shall find the famous sea-port of ROCHFORT, which is 21 miles S. by E. of Rochelle, and 250 S. W. of Paris. It is in the department of the Lower Charente, has a deep commodious harbour, well sheltered from all hurricanes, with vast barracks, an armoury, excellent docks, rope-walks, well-stored naval magazines, a marine academy, and an hospital for seamen. It was founded by Louis XIV. in the midst of marshes, expressly drained for that purpose, and was called by Colbert "La Ville d' Or," from the prodigious sums expended there; it was originally well fortified, but its distance from the sea rendering it sufficiently secure, the fortifications have been partially neglected. The town is laid out with great beauty and elegance; the streets are uniformly broad, and in straight lines, extending through the whole place from side to side; but the houses are low, though regular. Large vessels can lie afloat in the harbour at low water, well secured from all winds, as well as from annoyance by enemies; and it is remarkable that the worm, so destructive to the bottoms of ships, does not bite here. The port is as important as Brest or Toulon. It is supposed to contain 10,000 inhabitants; but the neighbouring salt-marshes render the air unwholesome, and the water is



A Green Grocer



Published 23rd Oct 1885 by W Dorton, Junr. 38 Holborn Hill London.

of a bad quality. The number of workmen formerly employed at Rochfort was about 900, and to these were added 600 galley-slaves, who were occupied in the most painful and laborious service. They were chained two and two with heavy fetters, constantly guarded, and confined in a long building erected for that purpose in the centre of the yard; some of these wretches were thus detained for a term of years, others during life. The approach to the town up the river is well defended by several forts; one of which, on the isle of Aix, together with the island on which it stands, was taken, in 1757, by Capt. Howe, in the *Magnanime*, after half an hour's resistance, the whole garrison, consisting of nearly 600 men, being made prisoners.

39. ROCHELLE is a celebrated sea-port, in the department of Lower Charente, 90 miles N. of Bourdeaux, and 236 W. S. W. of Paris. Before the revolution, it was a bishop's see and capital of Aunis. The harbour is safe and good, though it is not very deep, and its entrance is narrow. The climate here is not very good, in consequence of the salt marshes. Its trade in general is very great, especially to the French colonies in Africa and America. It has five gates and the houses are mostly supported by piazzas; the streets are in straight lines. The population is about 15,000. In the 16th century the inhabitants joined in the reformation, fortified the town, and held out a siege. In 1622, Louis XIII. in order to compel them to surrender, ordered Fort Louis to be erected, at the entrance of the harbour, and in 1628, to prevent their receiving any succours by sea, a mole was raised by Cardinal Richlieu, 4482 feet in extent, which surrounded the haven, the remains of which are still to be seen. Famine at length obliged them, the same year, to capitulate; in consequence of which their privileges were taken away, and the fortifications demolished; but, in the reign of Louis XIV. these were again repaired by M. Vauban.

40. FONTENAY LE COMTE is a city and capital of the department of La Vendée, situated in a fertile valley, on the Vendée, 58 miles S. S. E. of Nantes, and 16 N. of Niort. There are about 7000 inhabitants, whose principal commerce is in woollen cloth, stuffs and cattle, of which they sell a great number at their three annual fairs.

41. Without further delay let us describe **NANTES**, a city, and capital of the department of the Lower Loire, situated

on the Loire, 70 miles N. of Rochelle, and 217 S.W. of Paris, formerly the capital of a district called Nantois in Bretagne. Before the revolution, it was a bishop's see, the seat of an intendency, a collection, a chamber of accounts, a board of finances, a mint-office, a country court, a bailiwick, a prévôté, an admiralty, a forest-court, and a consulate. Exclusive of the cathedral, and a collegiate church, it contained eleven parish churches, fourteen convents, two hospitals, one college, and an university, founded about 1460, a society of agriculture and arts, a school of anatomy and surgery, and a large rope manufacture. This is one of the greatest trading cities in the kingdom, chiefly to the French colonies, America, Spain, Portugal and other parts, though ships of burden can come no farther up the Loire than to Paimbœuf, a market town, where the cargoes are put into smaller vessels, and carried to Nantes. It is large, populous, well situated, and has four suburbs; is one of the most ancient cities in France, the *Condivunum* of the Romans, and the *Civitas Nannetum* of Cæsar. It is mentioned by several Latin writers, as a town of most considerable population under the Roman prefects. In every respect it is a noble city, and is situated as beautifully as it is advantageously, being built on the ascent and summit of a hill, at the foot of which is the Loire, the *river of love*; the inhabitants on whose banks have, from time immemorial, been all reputed as native poets. The Loire is perhaps the only river in Europe, which is bordered by hills and hillocks, and which, in so long a course, so seldom passes through a dead level. Hence the rising grounds of the Loire have, from the earliest periods, been selected for the sites of castles, monasteries, abbeys and chateaux. The scenery along the Loire has a character which cannot be found in any other kingdom, on any other river. Towns, wind-mills, steeples, ancient castles and abbeys still entire; others with nothing remaining but their lofty walls; hills covered with vines, and alternate woods and corn-fields, altogether form a chain of landscapes which remind one of a poem, and successively refresh, delight, animate and exalt the imagination. Let him who is oppressed with sorrow traverse the banks of the Loire; let him appeal from man to nature; from the busy world and scenes of vice, to scenes of innocence and loveliness, groves, meads and flowers,—his must be no common sorrow which would not be forgot on the banks of the Loire! In the middle of the stream opposite Nantes are several islets, on which are houses and gardens; and which, at sun-set, when there are marquées and dancing parties on them, have a most

pleasing effect. Nantes possesses one of the finest quays in Europe, extending about a mile in length, and covered with buildings almost approaching to palaces. The bridge is nearly a mile and a half long. On a hill to the eastward is the castle in which the Dukes of Bretagne used to hold their court; it is still entire, though built nearly 900 years ago: the repairs having been made in the character of the original structure, it remains a most perfect specimen of the age in which it was built. One room, the hall or banquetting-room, as in all Gothic castles, is of an immense size, and lofty in proportion. The inn, called the Hotel of Henry IV. is one of the largest and most magnificently furnished in Europe. The population is estimated at 80,000. A great quantity of salt is made here and in the neighbourhood. Nantes is celebrated for its brandy; but more particularly so by the edict issued in 1598, by Henry the Great, for granting to the Protestants the public exercise of their religion; but this edict was revoked in 1685 by Louis XIV. which gave a blow to the manufactures of France, that they have not yet recovered.

The LOIRE is the principal river in France in every respect; whether considered as to the length of its course, the purposes of commerce to which it is applied, the extraordinary beauty and fertility of the country through which it passes, or the number and importance of the cities upon its banks. It rises in the mountains of the Cevennes, 18 miles N. by W. of Aubenas, in the department of the Ardeche, begins to be navigable at Roanne, and, flowing by Nevers, Cosne, Chatillon, Orleans, Blois, Amboise, Tours, Saumur, Nantes, &c. &c. falls into the Bay of Biscay, below Paimbœuf, 30 miles W. of Nantes.

42. No town of note occurs in our route until we come to RENNES, a city and capital of the department of Ille and Vilaine, 58 miles N. of Nantes, and 200 W. S. W. of Paris. Before the revolution it was the see of a bishop, capital of Bretagne, and a parliament city. It is situated on the Vilaine, which divides it into two parts; is large and populous, containing eight parish churches, besides the cathedral, and several convents. There are many good houses, and the streets after the fire, which nearly consumed the whole town in 1720, were built with great regularity. The unsuccessful siege of this place by Edward III. is much celebrated.

43. We proceed in a N. E. direction to ALENCON, a city and capital of the department of the Orne, 105 miles W. S. W.

of Paris. It was formerly the metropolis of the dukedom of Alençon, and a generality. It is situated on the river Sarte, which runs into the Loire. The walls are traversed with towers and surrounded with ditches; the greater part of the streets are tolerably wide, and the houses well built; there is only one parish church, which contains some remarkable tombs of the ancient dukes.

44. We must not leave this neighbourhood without noticing the once celebrated Abbey of LA TRAPPE, situated in a deep and woody valley, a few miles to the N.E. of Alençon, in the same department. The hills and forests which surround it seem to be disposed in such a manner as if they wished to conceal it from the rest of the world. It was founded in 1140 by Rotrou, Comte du Perche, consecrated in 1214, and *reformed* in 1662 by the Abbé de Rancé; to the latter circumstance it is indebted for its wonderful celebrity. It was called “L’Abbaye de Notre Dame de la Maison Dieu de la Trappe;” and the chief object of the order was, that the monks should be mutual guards upon each other; and for this purpose they were never suffered to be alone except in their cells during their few hours of rest: they ate, drank, worked, reposed and prayed all together, increasing their austerities by emulation of pains and sufferings. They were also famous for keeping perpetual silence, unless when spoken to by the superior, or in their religious conferences, or to accuse themselves, and never tasted meat or wine, except when sick. They fasted continually, and were in all respects the most rigorous ascetics in Europe. In the apartments allotted for the reception of visitors, tablets were hung up on the walls, on which were written some of the regulations of the order; such as the keeping a perpetual silence in the cloister, the avoiding a meeting with any of the monks, directing strangers to address themselves to the porter alone if they wanted any thing, forbidding their entry into the cloisters, or house, or walking in the garden at certain hours, &c. The vestibule also was filled with passages drawn from scripture; so that it has been quaintly said, “Here the walls speak, the men say not a word.”

The whole building was very plain and simple: one end of the church, which was divided into two by a high balustrade, was built so as to resemble the poop of a ship; there were two altars; the grand altar was plain, sculptured in an ancient manner, having an image of the Virgin over it; on the pedestal upon which this image was placed, the word ΘΕΟΤΟΚΩ was

inscribed, which signifies "To the *Mother* of God." The mode of life observed here among the religious has been already glanced at; it was surprisingly strict and severe; almost their whole time was occupied in religious exercises, praying, fasting, and working; a very short space indeed was allotted to repose, if so it may be called, which was to be sought in their clothes upon a board; their food consisted of very brown, coarse and branny bread, pottage made of herbs, peas, or lentils, spinage, beans, and other vegetables, but no butter or oil; their drink was water and a very small quantity of cider.

However we may condemn the practices of these people, as being not only useless but injurious to society, we must still reverence the piety of their motives; they thought they were serving God in the most acceptable manner, and supposed the more severe their bodily afflictions and mortifications were, the more pure their heavenly joys would be.

45. LEMANS or **MANS**, a city and capital of the department of the Sarthe, is 46 miles N. of Tours, and 110 S.W. of Paris. It is situated on a declivity at the confluence of the Huisne and Sarthe, and contains about 12,000 inhabitants. It has excellent poultry, and its wax and stuffs are famous. Before the revolution it was the metropolis of Maine, the see of a bishop, the seat of a governor, an electorate, a bailiwick, &c. It contained a cathedral, two collegiate and thirteen parish churches, and twelve religious houses.

46. LAVAL is a city and capital of the department of Mayenne, 40 miles E. of Rennes, and 156 W. S. W. of Paris. It is situated on the river Mayenne, and contains about 18,000 inhabitants. Here, and in the neighbourhood, are several manufactures of linen, which form a very considerable commerce.

47. The next place of note, directly S. of Laval, is **ANGERS**, a city and capital of the department of Mayenne and Loire, situated on both sides of the Mayenne, 60 miles W. of Tours, 50 E. N. E. of Nantes, and 175 S. W. of Paris. Before the revolution, it was the capital of Anjou, and a bishopric. The first walls of this city were built by John, King of England, who was Count of Anjou, which were destroyed by Louis VIII. whose son rebuilt them in their present form, in the year 1232. An university was founded here in 1246, and an academy of the belles lettres in 1685. The Angevins

are remarked for their love of literature,—an honourable distinction! The city contained 16 parish churches, and several religious houses; the cathedral is a beautiful pile of building, celebrated for its monument of Margaret of Anjou, wife of Henry VI. of England. The castle is built on a rock, and was originally designed as a defence against the English, after Anjou was surrendered to France; it overhangs the river, and, though now in decay, has still a very striking appearance; it was flanked with eighteen large round towers, and a very strong half-moon; the walls are lofty and the fosses deep, and cut out of the solid rock. The streets are narrow, and the houses mean, low and huddled together; they are all covered with slate furnished by the quarries in the neighbourhood, from which Angers has been called *Ville Noire*. The population is estimated at 50,000.

Provisions are very cheap in Angers and the neighbourhood; beef and mutton, 2*d.* per lb.; a fowl, 5*d.*; turkeys, 18*d.* to 2*s.*; bread, about 1½*d.* per lb.; and all other things, except fuel, in proportion. The climate is very delightful; the high vault of heaven is clad in ethereal blue, and the sun sets with a glory inconceivable to those who have lived only in more northerly regions; there are no fogs; the rains come on at once, and then cease till the following season.

48. SAUMUR is a small but handsome town, in the same department, formerly the capital of Saumurois, 27 miles S. E. of Angers. The town is pleasantly situated on the Loire, over which is a long bridge, much celebrated and continued through a number of islands; the fortifications were formerly of great strength, and, though now neglected, the place still maintains its rank as a military town, and the names of travellers are formally required and registered. Saumur was a most important pass over the river, and was frequently and fiercely disputed during the civil wars in the sixteenth century. The castle, built on an eminence, overlooks the town and river, and has a venerable and magnificent appearance; the kings of Sicily and dukes of Anjou often resided in the castle of Saumur, as it constituted a part of their Angevin dominions. Provisions here also are very cheap; beef, not very fat, 1½*d.* English per lb.; mutton and veal, about 2*d.*; two fowls, 8*d.*; two ducks, 10*d.*; geese and turkeys, from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*; fuel, as much as would serve three fires for the year, about 5*l.*; house-rent in proportion; butter, 8*d.* per lb.; cheese, 4*d.*; and milk, a half-penny per quart. The country round Saumur is as lively and

beautiful as the town itself; it chiefly consists of corn fields, studded with groves or tufts of trees, and divided by green fences interspersed with pear and apple trees.

The country between Saumur and Tours is as delightful as the imagination can conceive, and exceeds all powers of description; there are in rapid succession meadows and lawns ever green, hills covered with vines, handsome chateaux, groves and tufts of trees, thick and almost impenetrable forests, from the centre of which are visible steeples, villas, windmills, abbeys, and ancient castles overhanging the majestic and romantic Loire, where the deep tranquillity is only interrupted by the nightingale's song, the jocund notes of the swain returning from labour, the milkmaid's carol, or the nightly dance beneath the beech-tree's shade. This is truly a lovely country, with varied, picturesque and beautiful scenery, abounding in vines, corn, meadow, wood and water. Well might Mary Queen of Scotland exclaim, when leaving the vines and flowers of France for her Scotch kingdom, "Dear, delightful land, must I indeed leave thee! Gay, lovely France, shall I never see thee more!"

49. A few miles E. of Saumur was the far-famed abbey of **Fontevraud**, founded in 1096 by Robert d'Arbrissel, where Henry the Second and Richard the First of England were interred; Eleanor of Aquitaine, wife of Henry, Jane Queen of Sicily, his daughter, and Elizabeth of Angouleme, widow of John King of England, lie buried in the same tomb. Fontevraud, besides the respect derived from its antiquity, was considered as one of the most honourable and important benefices in France; many princesses of the blood have been its abbesses, with immense revenues, and extensive spiritual and temporal authority. It was situated in a valley, having rocky hills behind, and thick woods almost concealing it from the view, giving it an air of melancholy and silence peculiarly characteristic of the gloomy devotion of monastic life.

50. We pass through Thouars and Partenat unnoticed, and come to **Niort**, a city and capital of the department of the Two Sevres, 44 miles S.W. of Poitiers, and 34 N.E. of Rochelle. It is situated on the river Sevre Niortoise, and had formerly a very strong castle. There are considerable coarse woollen manufactures here.

51. **POICTIERS** or **POITIERS**, a city and capital of the department of Vienne, is large, but thinly inhabited. It is

117 miles N. N. E. of Bourdeaux, 170 S. S. W. of Paris, and stands upon the river Clain. The principal manufactures are stockings, woollen caps, gloves and combs. Some Roman antiquities are to be found here, particularly an amphitheatre, and a triumphal arch. Formerly Poitiers was the capital of the province, a bishop's see, the residence of the governor of Poitou, and had a celebrated university for the civil law. In 1356 a battle was fought near this town, between the English, under Edward the Black Prince, and the French, in which the latter were defeated, and the king taken prisoner. What renders this battle more famous and extraordinary is, that the English army consisted only of 12,000 men, and the French of 60,000.

52. Turning once more to the S. and passing by many places of inferior note we arrive at ANGOULEME, a city and capital of the department of Charente, 65 miles S. E. of Rochelle, and 250 S. W. of Paris. Before the revolution it was the capital of Angoumois, and the see of a bishop. It is situated on a rock near the river Charente, contains twelve parishes, and about 8000 inhabitants. The cathedral was destroyed in the civil wars, about the year 1562, and was rebuilt in 1628.

53. After another long stretch, in a south-westerly direction, we reach one of the most important places in France—BOURDEAUX, a city, sea-port and capital of the department of the Gironde, 325 miles S. S. W. of Paris. Before the revolution it was the capital of the Bourdelois, the see of an archbishop, the seat of a lieutenant-general and a parliament city. It is in the form of a crescent, delightfully situated on the western coast of the Garonne, and contains about 130,000 inhabitants. Bourdeaux is one of the first cities in France for magnitude, riches and beauty. It has an university, founded in 1441; an academy of sciences and belles-lettres, established in 1712; a public library; a large hospital, in which are several manufactures, &c. The harbour is large, and the quay grand and extensive. Four or five hundred merchant ships are often found there at one time, importing woollen stuffs, tin, copper, coals, herrings, leather, salted beef, tallow, drugs, deals, masts for ships, hemp, pitch and tar, &c. and exporting wine and brandy, (of which two articles alone they annually export near 100,000 tuns) vinegar, fruit, resin, paper, honey, cork, &c. They have also a great West India trade; the whale and cod fishery form likewise a considerable branch of the commerce of this city.



A Song Girl



A Liqueur Merchant

The Chateau Trompette is situated at the entrance of the quay; it is flanked with six large bastions; the river runs round its walls, which are defended by large and deep ditches. There is another fort, situated on the banks of the river, immediately opposite the Chateau Trompette. Bourdeaux has twelve gates, and, near the ramparts of the city, a large square tower, flanked with four round towers, called the Chateau de Haa. There is a delightful promenade on the platform of St. Eulalia, on the ramparts, covered with many long alleys of trees, which affords an extensive view of the environs and the river, and is the resort of the merchants. The public buildings are very grand; the greater part of the large streets end upon the quay, which is four miles long; the streets in general are narrow, but the modern-built unite elegance with regularity.

There are several vestiges of Roman grandeur here; as the tower gate, said to have been erected in the time of Augustus; an amphitheatre and palace of Gallienus; a temple, a fountain, &c. From hence come the wines called Claret and Bourdeaux. This was the first city in France that declared for the Bourbons, hoisted the white standard with the fleurs-de-lys, and opened its gates to a detachment sent from the army under the gallant Lord Wellington; for which the mayor, M. Lynch, has since been outlawed and proscribed by Buonaparte.

The GARONNE, upon which Bourdeaux is situated, is a fine river, it rises in the Pyrenees, and, taking a N.W. direction, waters Toulouse, Agen and Bourdeaux, 12 miles below which it is joined by the Dordogne, and from thence to its entrance into the Bay of Biscay is called the Gironde. By its junction with the canal of Languedoc, a little below Toulouse, it communicates with the Mediterranean as well as the Atlantic. At Bourdeaux it is wider than the Thames at London-bridge.

54. BAZAS is a city in the department of the Gironde, 28 miles S. S. E. of Bourdeaux; formerly the capital of Bazadois, and a bishop's see. The diocese is said to have been one of the most ancient in France, and of great extent, comprehending 250 parishes. It is a handsome town and contains about 2000 inhabitants.

55. BAYONNE, a city and sea-port, in the department of the Lower Pyrenees, 98 miles S. W. of Bourdeaux, and 425 S. by W. of Paris. It is situated at the conflux of the rivers Adour and Nive, about 2 miles and a half from the sea, with a good harbour, but difficult to enter. The town is large and

of considerable importance, the seat of a tribunal in the district of Ustaritz. It is strongly fortified by the celebrated Vauban, the citadel is the strongest in France. Masts are brought here from the Pyrenees, by means of the Nive, the Gave of Oleron, and the Adour, and shipped off to Brest and other places. A company for the northern whale fishery was established in 1605; in 1784 it was declared a free port. Before the revolution it was the see of a bishop. The cathedral is remarkable for its high nave and the delicacy of the pillars which support it. Bayonne and the Adour, are rendered famous in our times, for being the scene of some of the operations of that great military genius the Duke of Wellington, in his invasion of France.

56. PAU, a city, and capital of the department of the Lower Pyrenees, is 55 miles E. of Bayonne, and 97 S. of Bourdeaux, situated on a river called the Gave of Pau. It was formerly the capital of Bearn, a parliament city, the seat of a governor, a seneschal, &c. and contained an university, an academy of sciences, two hospitals, a college, and several convents. It was the ancient residence of the kings of Navarre, and the birth-place of Henry IV. The population is estimated at about 12,000, chiefly employed in the manufacture of cloth, linen, &c. The hams cured here are highly esteemed. The environs are planted with vineyards, which produce the famous "Vin de Jorençon." The castle stands on a most romantic and singular spot, at the west end of the town, upon a rock, which terminates perpendicularly. It commands very fine and extensive views; the river Gave immediately below, the hills on one side covered with vines about two miles distant, and, beyond all, the Pyrenees stretching round the horizon from east to west and bounding the prospect. The castle, though now in a state of decay, is still habitable; and the apartments are hung with tapestry said to be the work of Jane Queen of Navarre, the mother of Henry IV.; the room is still shown in which he was born, and there are some curious particulars told relating to that event. Jane, in compliance with the desire of her father, Henry d'Albret, King of Navarre, came from Compeigne to Pau to lie in; and, in obedience to his command, during the pains of her labour, had courage enough to sing a song or hymn in the Bearnois language. The moment he was born the king took the infant into his own apartment, and began by making him swallow some drops of wine, and rubbing his lips with a root of garlic. The manner of his bringing up was similar, and in a

prince almost unexampled ; he was sent to the castle of Coarace in Bearn, where he used to run about with the neighbouring peasants, barefooted and bareheaded, even in the rigours of winter.

57. From Pau let us direct our course northward till we reach **MONT DE MARSAN**, a city, and capital of the department of the Landes, 46 miles N. E. of Bayonne. It was founded in the year 1120, and was the capital of the country of Marsan ; it contains about 4000 inhabitants, and is entitled to notice only from being the capital of the department.

58. The next place of importance we come to, in an easterly direction, is **AUCH**, a city and capital of the department of Gers, 37 miles W. of Toulouse, and 90 S. E. of Bourdeaux, situated on a hill near the river Gers. Before the revolution the capital of Armagnac, and see of an archbishop, who had the title of Primate of Aquitaine, with a revenue of 125,000 livres. The cathedral was esteemed one of the most beautiful in France.

59. We turn again to the S. to notice **TARBE**, a city and capital of the department of the Upper Pyrenees, seated on the river Adour, 25 miles E. of Pau, and 42 S. S. W. of Auch. Formerly it was a bishop's see, and the residence of a governor. It is built on the ruins of the ancient Bigorre, consists principally of one street along the Adour, and is defended by a castle.

60. Passing by many places of inferior note, from Tarbe we may proceed E. to **FOIX**, a city and capital of the department of the Arriege, 42 miles S. of Toulouse. This place is supposed to have been founded by the Phocians, whence the name is corrupted into Foix ; it contains about 3,500 inhabitants, and has a manufacture of coarse woollen cloth, and some copper works.

61. **PRADES** is a town in the department of the Eastern Pyrenees, on the river Tet, 21 miles W. S. W. of Perpignan, containing about 1100 inhabitants. Modern travellers, speak highly of the cultivation of the mountains in this district, and of the very sublime scenery in the immediate neighbourhood. *Canigou*, the chief of the Eastern Pyrenees, may be ascended from hence ; no description can convey to the mind the grandeur, and vastness of this mountain ; whose summit, on which is fixed a small iron cross, is 9000 feet above the

level of the Mediterranean. There are many wild goats among the rocks, and some bears; and the wolves frequently prowl about the streets of Prades, in the winter nights.

62. It is a delightfully romantic ride from Prades to **PER-PIGNAN**, a city and capital of the department of the Eastern Pyrenees, 34 miles S. of Narbonne, situated on the Tet, about three miles from the sea. Perpignan was formerly considered as one of the keys of the kingdom. Before the revolution it was the capital of Roussillon, and see of a bishop. The walls are of brick and stone, very high and thick, with several bastions; the citadel is upon an eminence and commands the town. In 1793 there were two battles, between the French and Spaniards near this city; in the former of which the Spaniards, in the latter the French were defeated. The beneficial effects of irrigation are very visible in this district. The copious and pure streams issuing from the Pyrenees, are most economically and skilfully directed to this purpose; they are collected by artificial channels, and only suffered to descend as they perform the office of irrigation; and they render the little portions of arable land on the sides of the mountain, surprisingly fruitful. Where a portion of land cannot be irrigated, it is planted with vines; as watering these would injure the quality of the wine, without increasing the quantity sufficiently to compensate. On the contrary olives are irrigated with the greatest advantage.

63. Our course from Perpignan lies along the shores of the Mediterranean to **NARBONNE**, a city, in the department of the Aude, situated near the sea, on the canal which communicates with the Aude, 50 miles S.S.W. of Montpellier, and 80 S.E. of Toulouse. It was formerly the see of an archbishop, the seat of an admiralty, and residence of a governor: it contained 2 collegiate churches, besides the cathedral, which is noted for its noble choir, a college, 2 seminaries, 13 convents and several hospitals. Here the Emperor Marcus Aurelius was born. It was the capital of Gallia Narbonensis, and strongly fortified; but at present a wall, flanked with bastions, is its only defence. Narbonne contains a great many antiquities; the chief are the aqueducts, the place called the Capitole, many statues, inscriptions, &c. It is not populous, in proportion to its extent, neither is it a rich or commercial town. The honey of this neighbourhood is in great esteem. The inhabitants are estimated at 10,000. The views between this place and Perpignan, the Cevennes on the right, the Mediterranean on the

left, and the Pyrenees towering majestically in front, are extremely interesting and delightful.

64. We now turn to **CARCASSONE**, a city and capital of the department of the Aude, 35 miles W. of Narbonne. It was formerly the capital of a county, the seat of a governor, and a bishop's see. It is situated on the Aude, and is divided into Old and New Town, and defended by a castle, walls and ditches. The New Town is regularly built in the form of a long square. There is a considerable manufacture of fine cloth here, in many respects excelling even that at Abbeville. The population is estimated at 10,000.

This place bore a considerable share in the celebrated crusade undertaken against the Albigenses, which forms one of the most astonishing instances of superstition and atrocious barbarity to be found in the annals of the world. The city being invested by Simon de Montfort, and the inhabitants, terrified at the fate of several other places where the most dreadful massacres had been committed, demanded leave to capitulate; but this act of mercy was only extended to them under a condition equally cruel, unparalleled in history, and incredible if we were not compelled to believe it by the unanimous testimony of all the contemporary writers:—all the people found in it were obliged, without distinction of rank or sex, to evacuate it in a state of nudity.

65. On our road to Toulouse we may notice **CASTELNAU-DRY**, a town, in the department of Aude, 54 miles W. of Narbonne, situated on an eminence, near the grand reservoir which supplies the canal of Languedoc. Before the revolution it was the capital of Lauragais; it contains about 5000 inhabitants.

66. **TOULOUSE** is a city and capital of the department of the Upper Garonne, 125 miles S.E. of Bourdeaux, and 350 S. by W. of Paris. It was once the capital of Languedoc, see of an archbishop, and second parliament of France; it is reckoned for size next to Paris; the streets are generally broad, and the houses built of brick. It is not, however, very populous; and, though so finely situated, its trade is very inconsiderable, the principal article being Spanish wool. Some carpets are made here, though of little value, together with some slight silk and woollen stuffs. The university was founded in the year 1228. The town-house is a spacious building, and called the capitolium,

whence the aldermen are termed capitouls; and amongst other curiosities preserved here are 15 large parchment folios, delicately written and illuminated, being annals of the city, commencing from the year 1288, and annually continued by the eldest capitoul. These were drawn up originally in Latin, but under Francis I. were altered to French. The three first volumes are principally filled with the portraits and names of the capitouls, and the following contain all the memorable events and transactions throughout the whole kingdom. Here is also an academy of the sciences and liberal arts. At a short distance below the city, the celebrated canal of Languedoc joins the Garonne, which here becomes navigable. Toulouse was one of the most flourishing cities of the old Gauls, and contains many monuments of antiquity. It is large, as before observed, and well built, but horribly filthy, contains 67,000 inhabitants, and has much the appearance of prosperity. How the people of this place, and of some others in the South of France, can tolerate the detestable stench of their own nuisances, is marvellous.

67. Our route next leads us to AGEN, a city, and capital of the department of the Lot and Garonne, 80 miles S. E. of Bourdeaux. It is situated on the Garonne, in a fertile country, and was formerly a bishop's see, and capital of a country called Agenois. The celebrated Joseph Scaliger was born here.

68. After crossing the Garonne at Layrac, which is here very rapid, running between high banks, and rendering the passage somewhat dangerous, if we proceed about 20 miles to the S. of Agen, we shall meet with the strongly fortified city of LECTOURE, which was lately an episcopal see, and is situated on a mountain of very difficult ascent, at the foot of which flows the Gers. It occupies a level space of more than half a mile in circumference on the summit of the mountain, from which there is a view of the Pyrenees, 90 miles distant, their heads lost in clouds and covered with eternal snow. Lectoure was a Roman colony, and many antiquities have been discovered here; a beautiful fountain, which springs from the side of the hill near the episcopal palace, is declared to have been consecrated to Diana, who had a temple near the spot. The history of John the fifth count of Armagnac, who resided here, is very curious, but too long to be inserted.

The remains of the castle are still visible, in which the noble and unfortunate Marechal de Montmorenci was confined after

the battle of Castelnaudry in 1632. So amiable was his character, so general was the attachment borne to him, and so detested was his enemy the Cardinal de Richlieu, that the ladies of the place attempted by a stratagem to procure him his liberty. They sent him, as a present, a large pie, in which was concealed a silken ladder of ropes. He lost no time in endeavouring to avail himself of this instrument for his escape, and, having fixed it the same evening to the window of his apartment, ordered his valet to descend first, intending to follow; but the servant, having unfortunately missed his hold, fell, and broke his thigh. The centinels, alarmed at his cries, ran to the spot, and intercepted the Marechal, who was soon after conducted to Toulouse and there put to death.

69. We again re-cross the Garonne, and proceed through Moissac to CAHORS, a city, and capital of the department of the Lot, 65 miles N. of Toulouse, and about 110 E. of Bourdeaux; it was once the capital of Quercy, and a bishop's see. It is situated on the river Lot, which nearly surrounds it, in a country celebrated for its wine, which is the principal article of commerce. Henry IV. took this town by assault in the year 1580, when mortars were first made use of. The university of Cahors was founded in 1332 by Pope John XXI., called Jacques d'Ossa, who was the son of a shoemaker of this city. The sublimity of his genius waisted him to this first dignity of the church. After a vacancy of two years in the papal see, the cardinals, being always divided in their suffrages, agreed that Cardinal d'Ossa should choose the most worthy; he immediately elected *himself* to the Pontificate, saying, "*Ego sum Papa*," I am Pope; and this election met with general approbation.

70. Returning to the southern coast of France, we must notice the ancient city of ALBY, which is 20 miles N. of Castres, seated on the river Tarn, in the department of the Tarn, and was formerly the capital of Albigeois, and see of an archbishop. The cathedral is a handsome Gothic building, and the tower or steeple is one of the heights of Upper Languedoc; the streets are very narrow and disagreeable. There are very beautiful walks in the environs of the town, and the country round is surprisingly fertile, producing grain, wines, flax, hemp, saffron, aniseed and coriander; the fine pastures afford wool of a good quality, which is manufactured into stockings, ratteens and coarse woollen goods; the wax candles made here are much esteemed. But Alby is chiefly celebrated in history on account of the

Albigenses, or *Albigois*, so named from making their first appearance in this city; who, as early as the 11th century, disputed the authority of the pope, and claimed the right of thinking for themselves, for which they were excommunicated, and several very cruel persecutions were raised against them. The *Albigenses* and *Waldenses* are considered as the forerunners and fathers of Protestantism and the reformation. Of such fearful importance did the *Albigenses* appear to the church, that Pope Innocent III. stopped the crusades in order to exterminate these worse than infidels. By the promise of plenary indulgences for forty days' warfare against them, he raised an army of 100,000 pilgrims, headed first by the Pope's legate and afterwards by Simon de Montfort. Rivers of blood were shed by the savage persecutors, but they were not exterminated. The crusaders, after immense losses, grew weary of the adventure, and their leader Simon was killed by a stone hurled by a woman. The war was abandoned and the inquisition was set up in its stead by the Spaniard Dominick.

71. Directly S. of Alby is CASTRES, a city and capital of the department of the Tarn, 34 miles E. of Toulouse. It is situated on the Agout, in a very agreeable plain, surrounded on all sides by mountains abounding in corn, wine and wood, and was formerly the see of a bishop. In the reign of Louis XIII. the inhabitants were chiefly Protestants, and formed a kind of republic; but since that time the walls have been destroyed, and the town laid open. It is a place of great trade, and contains about 100,000 inhabitants. Rapin de Thoyras, the celebrated historian of England, and M. Dacier were born here. Turquoise stones have been found in the neighbourhood. There was formerly in Castres one of the most magnificent episcopal palaces in France, which was 30 years building from the designs of Mansard; the gardens of which were amazingly spacious, running along by the side of the river, and supported by immense arches, on account of the inequalities of the ground. Castres possesses some very agreeable and extensive promenades; and at the village of Saix, in the neighbourhood, there was an elegant Chartreuse.

72. The next place of importance that occurs is BEZIERS, a city, in the department of Herault, situated on the left bank of the Orbe, 14 miles N.E. of Narbonne, and 34 S.W. of Montpellier. Before the revolution it was the seat of a governor,

A Paris Milk Girl



A Porter



and the see of a bishop. It occupies all the sides of a very steep and lofty hill, on the highest point of which is built the cathedral, which was small, but beautiful; there was an organ here, the pipes of which were distributed three and three among the pillars of the church, which had an extraordinary effect. It had besides one collegiate church, several religious houses, two hospitals, a college, and an academy of sciences for 37 members. It is not populous in proportion to its extent, the inhabitants are estimated at about 18,000. Eight sluices of the grand canal are within sight of the town, and it is about 6 miles from the sea. In the expedition against the Albigenes this place was besieged, taken by storm, and 60,000 of the wretched inhabitants were massacred in cold blood; this was called a religious war!

73. Before we proceed to Montpellier, we may notice CETTE, 14 miles S.W. of it, a sea-port, in the same department, in the Mediterranean. The place is small, and is introduced only in connexion with the CANAL OF LANGUEDOC, which begins here; this canal, the most important in France, intended to effect an inland communication between the Atlantic and Mediterranean, was undertaken in the reign of Louis XIV., begun in 1666 and finished in 1682. It is 180 miles long, carried over 37 aqueducts, and crossed by eight bridges: from Cette it crosses the lake of Thau, and below Toulouse is conveyed by three sluices into the Garonne. The reservoirs of water collected from the hills, for the supply of this navigation, are immense; from one of these the water is conveyed by three large brass cocks, with mouths as large as a man's body; yet though these remain open for months successively, there is no visible diminution of water in the great reservoir. Near Beziers is the mountain of Malpas, which was cut through to admit its passage; this is considered a most extraordinary work, producing a very striking and sublime effect. There is a descent by a large flight of steps into the excavation, so that a person may walk through the mountain along the side of the canal. The length of it is 720 feet, and the perpendicular height, from the water to the surface of the incumbent mountain, is 202 feet. A great part of the arch has been vaulted, and lined with free-stone, to prevent its falling in. The canal is upwards of 20 feet broad; and, though the distance hollowed through the ground is so considerable, yet the light is every where perfectly admitted. This was the greatest obstacle to completing the junction of the two seas, and its execution has immortalized th

famous Riquet, whom Louis XIV. employed in the enterprise, and made Count de Caraman.

At *Agde*, another small town, nearer to Beziers, there is a curious round sluice, lock, or chamber, with three openings, three different depths of the water or levels meeting here; and the gates are so contrived that vessels may pass into any one of them by opening the sluice belonging to it. There are 15 locks upon it in the fall towards the ocean, and 45 on the side of the Mediterranean. Regular locks for carrying boats over eminences were first erected in France.

74. MONTPELLIER, a city and capital of the department of Herault, is 27 miles S.W. of Nismes, 120 E. of Toulouse and 360 S. of Paris. This city was built on a hill near the river Lez, after Charlemagne had demolished Maguelone, which served as an asylum for the Saracens in their depredations; and the bishop's see, which had been removed from Maguelone to Substantion, was established at Montpellier. In 1180 an university was founded here, for the study of physic, by some physicians who were driven out of Spain; and, in 1706, an academy of sciences. This university and the schools of medicine have rendered Montpellier celebrated throughout Europe. They still preserve here the robe and bonnet of the celebrated Rabelais, with which they seven times clothe the new doctors, in remembrance of his having procured the re-establishment of the privileges of the university. To accomplish this he presented himself one day at the Chancellor du Prat's in the habit of a doctor; at first he spoke in Latin to a Swiss, who, understanding nothing about it, made an officer come to him, to whom Rabelais spoke in Greek; they then brought to him many learned men, to whom he spoke in Hebrew when they spoke to him in Greek, in Syriac to Hebrew, in Arabic to Syriac; so that he exhausted all the science of the chancellor's hotel: this magistrate, being advised of it, wished himself to speak to him. Rabelais then harangued him with so much eloquence on the privileges of the university, that he easily obtained his object.

Montpellier contains a great number of good houses, but the streets are narrow and crooked. It is defended by a citadel, which commands the town and neighbourhood. The principal manufacture is verdigris, in which it carries on a considerable trade, as also in wool, brought from the Mediterranean, wine, aqua vitæ, Hungary water, cinnamon water, capillaire, essence of bergamot, lemons, &c. and likewise great quantities of woollen carpets, fustians, and silk stockings. These commo-

dities are sent by the canal to Cette, the sea-port of Montpellier. The population is estimated at 78,000; it stands five miles from the Mediterranean. The air and climate are thought so fine, that sick people are often sent there from other countries for the recovery of their health. The road from Montpellier to Nismes is very rich and beautiful. The olive trees are larger near Montpellier, denoting a more fertile soil; some of their trunks are from 18 inches to two feet in diameter; the olive is a miserable looking tree, most like a pollard willow; and the severe service of being thrice stripped of its leaves during summer gives a beggarly appearance to the mulberry tree: the vineyards are like plantations of currant trees. Every thing in this district bears the marks of prosperity; fertile fields, well-built villages, and a thick and happy population.

75. The country is like a garden, level, and every where well cultivated, from Montpellier to NISMES, a city, and capital of the department of Gard, 27 miles N.E. of Montpellier, and 345 S. S. E. of Paris. It is large, and pleasantly situated on the side of a hill, covered with vineyards and orchards of fruit, at some distance from a small river called the Vistre. Before the revolution it was the seat of a particular government, a court of conventions, a consular jurisdiction, a bishopric, &c. It contained a seminary, a college, an academy of ancient history and belles lettres, several hospitals, a citadel, and about 40,000 inhabitants, a third of them supposed to be Protestants. The city is ancient, and was very large and magnificent before it was taken and sacked by the Goths.

Nismes possesses more antiquities than any other city in France. Marius, when conquered by Sylla, retired into this place, intending to make it a second Rome; he surrounded it with walls, built magnificent palaces, amphitheatres and other splendid edifices, the remains of which still excite the admiration of travellers; particularly an amphitheatre, a temple of Diana, an aqueduct, a grand tower supposed to have been a mausoleum, a public fountain, and the *maison quarrée*. The last is a temple of the Corinthian order, in exquisite taste, raised by the inhabitants of Nismes, in the year of Rome 754, to the memory of Caius and Lucius, sons of Agrippa; or, according to some, this is the Basilica, which the Emperor Adrian built in honour of his wife Plotina. It is allowed by all to be the most elegant and the most perfect piece of architecture in the world. This superb temple is now converted into a chapel, dedicated to the Virgin, and ornamented with gilding and other holy finery suitable to such an alteration.

Many workmen are now (1814) employed in restoring the *amphitheatre* to its original state. At present, thousands of people assemble in it every Sunday to see bull-fights, as they are improperly termed. A bull is turned into the arena among a great number of young men, who give proof of their activity and courage by teasing the animal into a rage, and then making their escape between palisades, which are fixed round the arena, at 15 inches apart, for that purpose; but fatal accidents are not very unfrequent. Many bulls are kept expressly for this barbarous sport. The amphitheatre is calculated to hold 20,000 spectators; it is an ellipsis, whose largest diameter is about 400 feet, and its shortest 300; the exterior wall is 60 feet high. Charles Martel, from hatred to the Roman name, had the savage fury to fill the corridors of this building with wood, to which he set fire, with an intent to injure, though it surpassed his power to demolish, so vast an edifice. Notwithstanding the attempts of the barbarous nations, notwithstanding the lapse of so many ages, and the effects of time, its appearance at present, half perfect, half in ruins, is the most august and majestic which can be presented to the mind or senses.

At a quarter of a mile from the city are the ruins of a square building called the *Temple of Diana*, but which antiquaries generally suppose to have been sacred to the "*Dii Infernales*," as no light was admitted into it; a circumstance peculiar to the temples of the infernal gods. Within the temple are many mutilated statues, marbles, capitals, and inscriptions, which have been found from time to time. Close to it rises a fountain which may vie with that of *Vaucluse* in beauty though not in fame; it furnishes a great quantity and a constant supply of water; the channel, being obstructed with sand and gravel, was cleared a few years ago, and in the course of the work a great number of Roman coins, rings and other antiquities were discovered, several of which were equally rare and well preserved.

We cannot particularize any more of the stupendous remains of Roman magnificence in this place for want of room; suffice it to say, that *Nismes* is the only city in the world that may rival *Rome* in antiquities, and that it contains a rich treat for those who are fond of contemplating the "*works of other days*."

76. Nine miles to the N.E. of *Nismes* is the lofty Roman aqueduct called the *PONT DU GARD*, which is the most beautiful and complete antiquity in France. It is built over the *Gard*, near a village named *Remoulins*, to convey the spring of *Eure*, near *Usez*, into *Nismes*. There are two mountains, one on each

side of the river, to the top of which the aqueduct communicates. The whole work is of the Tuscan order, formed of three rows of arches, one built over the other, of free-stone of nearly the same consistence as that of the amphitheatre. For lightness and solidity it may serve as a model to the best architects. The first row is composed of six large arches, 58 feet in the span, which from the first bridge over the Gard; upon this bridge a space is left sufficient for passengers both on horseback and on foot. The second row has eleven arches of the same height and breadth as those of the first, but not so thick, and without a thoroughfare. The third row has thirty-six arches, not so high or broad by one third, and bears the canal, six feet high and four broad, covered with large flat stones, which jut over. The first row of arches is 150 paces long, the second 265, and the third 300. It appears that the stones of this famous aqueduct are placed without mortar or cement, being so well joined that it is difficult to distinguish them; especially those of the turning of the arches, which are composed in the first row of four stones, in the second of three, and in the third of only one. The grandeur and magnificence which appear in this work are a proof that the Romans were capable of the most difficult enterprises.

77. From the Pont du Gard we may next go to **BEAUCAIRE**, a considerable town, noted for its annual fair, which lasts six days, for its castle, and for a subterraneous vault under the Rhone; and from thence, over a bridge of boats, to **TARASCON**, a town in the department of the Mouths of the Rhone, seated on that river, 10 miles N. of Arles. This is a large place, well fortified in the ancient manner, with a large castle built by René king of Sicily; it has a brisk trade in oil, brandy, starch, and stuffs of coarse silk and wool and silk, and a population of about 7000. The passage by the bridge of boats is sometimes dangerous in consequence of violent gusts of wind. The view of the Rhone here is very picturesque; on one side stands Beaucaire, with its ruined castle overhanging a rock; on this side is situated Tarascon, with a correspondent but far more considerable castle, washed by the waves of the rapid Rhone, which is here much broader than the Thames at London.

78. Before we proceed to Avignon, we shall describe the large, handsome and ancient city of **ARLES**, situated on the Rhone, in the department of the Mouths of the Rhone, 12 miles S. E. of Nismes, 35 N. W. of Marseilles, and 430 S. by E. of Paris. Before the revolution it was an archbishop's

see; and Constantine, the Roman emperor, was so pleased with its situation, that he made it the seat of his empire in Gaul. It is in the form of a harp, and the country round is very pleasant and fertile, producing excellent wine, manna, oil, fruits in abundance, and vermilion; the air also is very temperate and healthy, yet the city is not populous. It contained 7 parishes, 17 convents and monasteries, and a royal academy, which had the same privileges as that of Paris. The cathedral was celebrated for its very thick walls, and beautifully-sculptured marble portal. Arles contains some splendid remains of antiquity; the chief of which are the Amphitheatre and Obelisk.

The *amphitheatre* was built by the Romans, but the precise period of its erection is unknown; it was not finished at the upper part; it contained 120 arcades in its circumference, in two rows, one above the other, and in each an equal number; each of these arcades was 20 feet high and 18 wide; it is situated on the declivity of a hill, in a very uneven spot, and founded upon a rock; the foundations of the walls are more than 12 feet thick, and the stones which compose them, are so large and massive that they appear to be sustained by their own weight without mortar or cement. It contains a large space, called the Arena, because it was covered with sand, where the gladiators fought with each other, and with wild beasts, which were let out from caves under the amphitheatre. The upper part was filled with stone seats, like steps, and contained 30,000 persons very commodiously. This beautiful edifice is older, larger, and was more magnificent than that at Nismes, but it is not so complete: houses have been built, both inside and out; many of the arcades have been demolished; the arena is filled with earth up to the second row; and, of all the seats which the spectators occupied, only two remain. Under the amphitheatre was found, in 1651, the famous statue of Venus, which was transported to Versailles, and placed in the grand gallery; it is a *chef-d'œuvre*, and will always excite the admiration of connoisseurs.

The *obelisk* of Arles is one of the most superb monuments of antiquity, and the only one of the sort to be seen in France; its history is unknown; but it is supposed to be one of the forty obelisks which were in Egypt, and which were brought to Rome, because it is composed of the same oriental granite as those at Rome. It is nearly covered with hieroglyphics, and remained many ages buried in the earth in a private garden near the walls of Arles; in 1676 it was raised on a pedestal 20 feet high; the obelisk is 52 feet high, and 7 feet thick at the base, and all of one piece.

The *cemetery* in the Champs Elysées is without the town, on an agreeable declivity, and contained a great many ancient tombs and monuments of stone and marble; they have greatly decreased; the stones being taken away from some for building, and many others having been broken open to seek for coin, gold, silver, and bronze, all of which, as well as urns, pateras, lacrymatories and lamps, have been found here in abundance. There are many other curious remains of antiquity in Arles and its vicinity, which cannot here be distinctly specified.

The RHONE is a large river which rises in the Alps, at the eastern extremity of the Valais, passes by the city and through the Lake of Geneva, and flows to Lyons, where it joins the Saone, thence to Vienne, Valence, Avignon, and Arles, below which it empties itself into the Mediterranean by several mouths. The Rhone is perhaps the most rapid river in Europe, and is termed the king of all the French rivers; from this circumstance, and the romantic scenery about its source, which is also near that of the Rhine, it has been a favourite of the poets since the time of Petrarch: one of the tuneful race, speaking of Geneva, says:

“ Her lake, from whose broad bosom thrown
Rushes the loud impetuous Rhone,
And bears his waves with mazy sweep
In rapid torrents to the deep.”

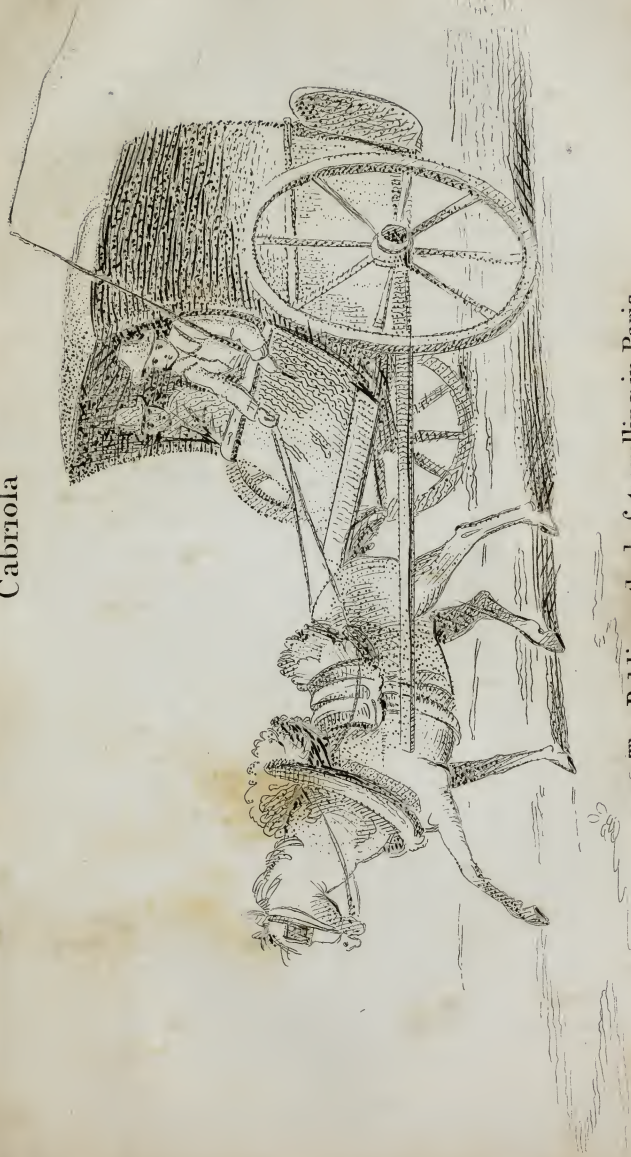
79. AVIGNON is a city in the Comtat Venaissin, situated on the eastern side of the Rhone, 20 miles N. E. of Nismes, and 45 N. W. of Aix. It was the capital of a sovereignty, and belonged to the pope, whose legate resided here, and the see of an archbishop. Avignon was the residence of several popes from 1307 to 1377. It was celebrated for having 7 gates, 7 palaces, 7 parishes, 7 colleges, 7 hospitals, 7 convents, 7 nunneries, and 7 popes, who resided in it successively during 70 years. It is surrounded by walls built by different popes; they still remain in perfect beauty and preservation, and much augment, particularly in a distant view, the beauty of the town. They are composed of free-stone, are flanked at regular distances with square towers, and surmounted with battlements. The public walks are round the foot of this wall. The interior of the city is ill built, the streets are narrow and irregular, and the pavement is most troublesomely rough; from the nature of the climate, however, the streets are necessarily clean. It contains 25,000 inhabitants. The palace, the former residence of the papal legates, was founded by Benedict the Twelfth, but is

better known as the subject of the elegant invective of Petrarch. The arsenal still remains, containing 4000 stand of arms, ranged according to their respective eras; and the spectacle to antiquaries is interesting and instructive. The papal chair, from respect to its antiquity, also remains; but the pannels of the state rooms, which were of polished cedar, have disappeared. The most curious parts of the palace, however, are the subterraneous passages, the entrance to which is usually through some part of the pillars, and perfectly imperceptible till pointed out. This palace is now used as barracks. The cathedral still retains many of its ancient decorations, and among others the monument of Pope John, who died in 1334. Four hundred and twenty-five years after, in 1759, the body was taken up to be removed, when it was found entire, and with some of the vestments retaining their original colour. The first wrapper round the body was a robe of purple silk, which was then enveloped in black velvet embroidered with gold and pearls; white satin gloves were on the hands, which were crossed over the breast.

The convent of St. Claire, where Petrarch first met Laura, has survived the fury of the times, and is still entire; as well as the church of the Cordeliers, where Laura is reputed to have reposed in peace. Francis I. caused the tomb to be opened; and a leaden box was found, containing some bones, and a copy of verses, the subject of which was the attachment of the two lovers. Petrarch was truly an original poet in a dark age; or, according to his own beautiful comparison, a nightingale singing through the thick foliage of a beech-tree. He has no resemblance to any English, French or Italian poet; and he possesses one quality, in common with the classic poets of Italy, —that he never has been, and perhaps never can be, sufficiently translated.

Avignon is, however, chiefly celebrated for its hospitals, the liberal foundation and endowment of which have originated, perhaps, in the misfortunes of the city, which has suffered as much as Florence itself by the plague. In 1334 it was almost depopulated by this pestilence, which was of the nature of a dry leprosy; the skin peeled off in white scales, and the body wasted till the disease reached the vitals. In fourteen years after, the city was again attacked, and the beautiful Laura became its victim. It is stated to have swept off upwards of 100,000 of the inhabitants. Another period of fourteen years elapsed, and the plague again made its appearance, and nearly 20,000 people, including twelve cardinals and a hundred bishops, fell its victims. It was imputed to an extraordinary drought,

Cabriola



The Public method of travelling in Paris

Published 23rd Decr. 1825 by W. Darton Junr. 58 Holborn Hill London.



attended by an uncommon heat and stillness of the air, which became putrid and pestilential.

From the high ground in the city nothing can be finer than the prospect over the plain and surrounding country. The Rhone is there seen rolling its animated stream through meadows covered with olive trees, and at the foot of hills invested with vineyards. The ruined arches of the old bridge carry the imagination back into the ancient history of the town. On the opposite side of the Rhone are the sunny plains of Languedoc, which breathe odours and perfumes from a thousand wild herbs and flowers. Mont Ventoux, in Dauphiny, closes the prospect to the north ; its high summit covered with snow, whilst its sides are robed in all the charms of vegetable nature. On the east are the abrupt rocks and precipices of Vaucluse, distant about five leagues, which complete, as it were, the garden-wall round Avignon and its territory.

The climate of Avignon is so very salubrious and delightful, that those things grow here spontaneously which require the most laborious exertions in northern countries. There are certainly very rapid transitions, but neither the intensity of the heat nor of the cold is of sufficient duration to be injurious to health or pleasure. The air, except in actual rain, is always dry ; and the sky is an ethereal Italian blue, scarcely ever obscured by a cloud. When the rains come on, they are very violent, but fall at once. The sun then bursts out, and the face of nature appears more gay and animated than before. There is one heavy detraction from the excellence of this climate, however, and that is the wind denominated the *vent de bize*. The peculiar situation of Avignon, at the mouth of a long avenue of mountains, gives rise to this wind, which collects in the narrow channel of the mountains, and bursts out as from the mouth of a barrel ; but it is considered as healthy, and very rarely does any considerable damage. Cæsar deified it, and raised an altar to it, under the name of the Circian wind. The winters here, however, are sometimes rendered most distressingly cold by it ; so that the Rhone is covered with ice sufficiently strong to support loaded carts, and the olive trees perish to their roots. Avignon is the capital of the department of Vaucluse, the department being so named rather from the celebrity of the poet than its local relations. There are many Jews and a handsome synagogue in the city. In 1791 some horrid massacres were committed here, soon after its union with France.

80. Fifteen miles E. of Avignon is the fountain of VAUCLUSE, perhaps the finest spring, and certainly the most celebrated,

in Europe, being rendered immortal as the scene of Petrarch's retirement. The river Sorgues issues from the fountain, and, after watering the little territory of Avignon, falls into the Rhone near that city. Meadows of the most lively green skirt its sides, above which rise abrupt and lofty rocks, that seem designed to seclude it from human view. The valley gradually becomes narrow towards the extremity, and, winding continually, describes the figure of a horse-shoe. The view is at length terminated by an enormous mass of rock, forming a barrier across it, of a prodigious height, and absolutely perpendicular. Through its vast recesses run the streams which supply the fountain of Vaucluse, and at its foot appears the basin of water, several hundred feet in circumference, stretched like an expanse, silent and quiet. The sides are very steep, and it is said that in the middle no bottom can be discovered, though attempts have often been made for that purpose. Though the fountain is clearer than crystal, yet the incumbent rock casts a continual shade, approaching to black, over its surface. The water escaping from this state of inaction by a narrow passage is immediately precipitated in a cascade down a rocky channel, where it foams over a number of vast, detached stones which intercept and impede its progress. The rocks that surround this romantic spot are worn by time into a thousand extraordinary and fantastic forms, to which imagination gives shape and figure. On one of the pointed extremities, in a situation which appears almost inaccessible, are seen the remains of an ancient castle projecting over the water, which the peasants call "Il castello di Petrarca;" and they add, with great simplicity, that Laura lived upon the opposite side of the river, under the bed of which was a subterraneous passage by which the lovers communicated. The castle, however, belonged to the lords, or seigneurs, of Avignon; the poet's dwelling was much lower down, nearer the banks of the Sorgues, as appears from his minute description of it, and the relation he gives of his quarrel with the Naiads of the stream, who encroached during the winter on his little adjoining territory. No remains of it are now to be discovered.

81. About 20 miles N. of Avignon, seated in a fine plain, on the little river Aigues, is the ancient city of **ORANGE**, formerly the capital of a principality and see of a bishop. It had an university founded in 1365 by the Emperor Charles IV., and the sovereignty of it was lodged in the house of Nassau, from 1598 to 1702, one of whom, Maurice of Nassau, Prince of Orange, caused the castle, which stood on an eminence,

to be well fortified ; but in 1660 the fortifications, and in 1673 the castle itself, were demolished. Upon the death of William III., king of England, the principality reverted to Frederick William of Prussia ; and, by the treaty of Utrecht, it was finally ceded to the house of Bourbon. The principality was about 10 miles long and 7 broad, and contained one city, two small towns, and nine villages, which were exempt from all the usual taxes in France. Orange was an important place in the time of the Romans, and is now visited by connoisseurs on account of the antiquities it contains ; the chief of which is the triumphal arch, 200 paces from the town, but formerly within its limits, which was much damaged in 1707 and 1709. It was erected by Caius Marius and Luctatius Catulus, after the victory which they obtained over the Cimbri and the Teutones, and is still a beautiful remnant of antiquity. Here are also the remains of a fine amphitheatre, and some aqueducts, which escaped the fury of the Goths and Saracens. The whole of these edifices, though defaced by the lapse of nearly two thousand years, are still august and magnificent.

82. A few miles S. of Orange is the old town of **PONT ST. ESPRIT**. The town is small and ill-built, and is a most unpleasant prison-like place, containing about 6000 inhabitants, cooped into a surprisingly small space ; the streets are so narrow that the people may almost shake hands from the upper windows ; no carriage of common width can pass ; the whole is surrounded by high walls, and is defended by a citadel with four royal bastions. It is mentioned here chiefly for its very fine stone bridge, 3000 feet long, over the Rhone, from which the town takes its name. This bridge was built in the middle of the thirteenth century, and consists of 19 great and 4 small arches ; the extreme lightness of the structure, compared with the depth, rapidity and width of the river, fills the mind with astonishment. To facilitate the passage of the water in time of floods, apertures have been made through each pier, about six feet above the common level of the river ; and to lessen the extreme rapidity of the Rhone, the bridge is not built in a right line, but in the form of a curve.

83. **CARPENTRAS** is a city in the Comtat Venaissin, 14 miles N. E. of Avignon. It is situated on the river Auson, surrounded with walls, and contains about 12,000 inhabitants. It is a bishop's see, and has many vestiges of Roman magnificence.

84. We continue our course to the handsome city of AIX, the capital of the department of the Mouths of the Rhone, 20 miles N. of Marseilles, and 45 S.E. of Avignon. Before the revolution it was the capital of Provence, the seat of a parliament, and see of an archbishop. It is situated on a plain, near the river Arc, and is surrounded by hills, which give it an air of recluseness and romantic retirement; without being so close as to prevent the due circulation of air. It is surrounded by a wall, which is dilapidated, and is now only interesting as a ruin. The interior of the town corresponds with the importance of its first aspect; it is well paved, the houses are all fronted with white stone, and, the air being clear, it always looks clean and sprightly. Many of them have balconies, and some of them are upon such a scale, both outside and in, as is seldom exceeded in England. The cathedral is an immense edifice, in the oldest Gothic style of architecture, and has all the strength and substance which characterize that order. The front is ornamented with figures of saints, prophets and angels, grouped together in the most absurd manner, and wretchedly executed. The grand portal is, however, very striking. The promenade, or public walk, equals, if not exceeds, any thing of the kind in Europe. The warm baths are very much celebrated, and have been so since the time of the Romans, who founded this town, calling it *Aquæ Sertiacæ*; the baths were re-discovered not many years ago; they are much frequented by valetudinarians; they are chiefly recommended in scorbutic humours, colds, rheumatisms, palsies and consumptions. Provisions of all kinds are in the greatest plenty; fish is in great abundance, and of the best quality; meat is very reasonable, and tolerably good; bread is about a penny English per pound; and vegetables, as in other provincial towns, so cheap as scarcely to be worth selling. Upon the whole, Aix is most delightfully situated, and the environs are beyond conception rural and beautiful.

35. We now come to one of the most considerable places in France--MARSEILLES, a flourishing city and sea-port, in the department of the Mouths of the Rhone, 20 miles S. of Aix, 35 N.W. of Toulon, and 390 S. by E. of Paris. Marseilles pretends to the most remote antiquity; it is supposed to have been built 630 years before the birth of Christ by a colony of Phocians; it was so celebrated in the time of the Romans, that Cicero styled it the "Athens of Gaul," and Pliny called it the "Mistress of Education;" before the revolution, it was the seat of a bailiwick and a

bishop's see. It is situated at the foot of a mountain near the Mediterranean, and divided into the Old Town, or City, and the New Town; the former lies on an eminence, and appears like an amphitheatre to the vessels entering the port; but the houses are mean, and the streets narrow, crooked, steep, and dirty: the latter is modern and elegant: the streets are straight and broad, and adorned with many handsome edifices. In this part is the principal church, built on the ruins of the temple of Diana; it had three other churches, two abbeys, a great many religious houses, a mint, an academy, and an observatory. The armoury, which consists of four walks cross-wise, is the finest in France, and contains arms for 40,000 men. The large arsenal was well stored with all the implements for building and fitting out the galleys, which have long been useless and neglected. The harbour is a parallelogram, having public and private buildings on the two long sides and one on the shorter: the other side is the issue into the Mediterranean, which is defended on each point by a strong fort; the entrance is extremely narrow and difficult, on account of a rocky cape near it; it is surrounded by lofty mountains, which protect and shelter vessels during the most violent storms, but has not depth of water sufficient for men-of-war. The port itself forms a delightful walk, as it is open to the southern sun, and crowded with a vast number of people, not only of all the European nations, but with Turks, Greeks, and natives of Barbary.

Marseilles has been eminent since the days of antiquity for its commerce, and it is now sometimes called Europe in miniature, on account of the variety of dresses and languages; indeed nature seems to have marked out this place for commerce by the advantages it possesses. Gold and silver stuffs are the chief manufactures; the inhabitants are estimated at 90,000. The climate of Marseilles is superior to many other parts of the south of France; it is milder in winter, and cooler during the heats of summer from its vicinity to the Mediterranean. The country round is rocky and barren, but covered for several miles on all sides with villas and summer-houses which commerce has erected. In 1649 the plague raged with great violence in Marseilles, and with still greater from 1720 to 1722, when it carried off 50,000 of the inhabitants. The walls and fortifications round Marseilles are very strong; besides the forts at the entrance of the harbour, there is another on the top of a mountain, built on the ruins of a temple of Venus, which commands the town, and from which vessels are discovered at sea as far as the eye can reach. Just outside the harbour are the islands of If, Katonneau, and Pomegues, each strongly for-

tified, having a castle, &c. and on one of them is the lazaretto. Marseilles was once a republic of itself, at which time the expenses of a law-suit among the citizens never exceeded $2\frac{1}{2}d.$!

86. Continuing our course along the shores of the Mediterranean from Marseilles, we reach a place of still greater consideration, **TOULON**, a city, sea-port, and capital of the department of the Var, 35 miles S.E. of Marseilles, and 430 S. S.E. of Paris. This is a place of great importance, strongly fortified, the general magazine of naval stores, and the chief harbour for all the French fleets in the Mediterranean. Before the revolution it was a bishop's see, and, besides the cathedral and other parish churches, contained nine convents, a seminary, and a college. The old and new harbour lie contiguous, and, by means of a canal, communicate with one another, both having an outlet into the spacious outer harbour, which is naturally almost of a circular figure, being very large and surrounded with hills. The entrance on both sides is defended by a fort, with strong batteries. The new harbour, the work of Louis XIV., is well defended by batteries, and round it stands the arsenal, where every man-of-war has its own particular storehouse, but the guns and cordage are laid up separate. In it are spacious working-houses for blacksmiths, joiners, carpenters, locksmiths, carvers, &c. The rope-house is built wholly of free-stone, is 1920 feet in length, and has three arched walks, in which as many parties of rope-makers may work at the same time. The general magazine here, which supplies whatever may be wanting in the particular store-houses for single ships, contains an immense quantity of all kinds of stores, disposed in the greatest order and conveniency. The cannon foundry is considerable. In 1707, the Duke of Savoy and Prince Eugene laid siege to this city, but without success. In 1721 it suffered greatly by the plague. In 1793 the inhabitants and Vice-admiral Trugoff entered into a negociation with the English admiral, Lord Hood, then cruising in the Mediterranean, and he took possession of the town and shipping in the name of Louis XVII. General O'Hara was sent with troops from Gibraltar as governor and commander in chief. The republicans, however, soon recovered the place, Gen. O'Hara was wounded and taken prisoner, and the city and port abandoned. On the 19th of December, the town was bombarded from noon till ten o'clock at night; when the allies and part of the inhabitants, having first set fire to the town and shipping, precipitated their flight. Two chaloupes, filled with the fugitives, were sunk by the batteries; and a great part of the ships and property fell into the hands of the republicans.

87. It is only ten miles E. from Toulon to **HIERES**, a town, and formerly a sea-port, in the same department, where pilgrims bound to the Holy Land used to embark; but its harbour is now choked up, and the sea has retired to a considerable distance from the town. It is situated on the declivity of a hill, in a delightful country, enjoying perpetual spring; it is surrounded by the most beautiful gardens, in which are found the best fruits in France; oranges, pomegranates and citrons grow in the open air. During a great part of the winter the verdure of the country is as fine as in the spring, and in many gardens green peas may be gathered. Near the town are large salt-works, in which the salt is made partly from the waters of the sea and partly from a salt lake near the town; the exhalations from the lake rendering the air frequently malignant, the evil was remedied by a canal cut from the lake to the sea. The gulf between the town and island following is a famous road for vessels, with good anchoring ground and sufficient depth of water.

88. HIERES ISLES, a cluster of small islands in the Mediterranean, near the coast of the department of the Var, which take their name from the town of Hieres. Four of them, **Porquerollos**, **Porteros**, **Bagneau**, and **Titon**, are inhabited; the last is the largest, and is well cultivated. They are particularly celebrated for the great variety of medicinal plants on them.

89. From Hieres we may sail along the coast and land at **ANTIBES**, a sea-port in the department of the Var, about 10 miles S.W. of Grasse. It was the see of a bishop in the first ages of Christianity, but the see was removed to Grasse by **Innocent IV.** in 1250, on account of the piratical **Moors** of Africa and Spain, who several times sacked the town and plundered the inhabitants. The harbour is only capable of receiving small vessels. The fortifications are very strong, and the citadel is high and of difficult access. In 1746 this town was besieged on the land side by the **Austrians** and at sea by the **English**; it was bombarded from the 26th of December till the 20th of January, but without success; and, though the town was half reduced to ashes, it held out till relieved by **Marshal Belleisle**. **Buonaparte**, previous to his own landing after his voyage from **Elba**, ordered a captain of the guard with 25 men to land and secure any battery on this coast, should there be one; he entered **Antibes**, intending to make the garrison change their cockade, but the officer who commanded there for the king pulled up the drawbridge, shut the gates, and detained them prisoners.

90. Next to Antibes we may notice GRASSE, a town in the department of the Var, once the see of a bishop, situated upon a hill not far from the sea, 15 miles W.S.W. of Nice. There is a good trade here in dry fruit, olives, oil, perfumes, and tanned leather.

91. Before we proceed to Digne, let us take in FREJUS, a town in the department of the Var, seated in a morass near the river Argens, 40 miles N.E. of Toulon. Before the revolution it was a bishop's see, and was a flourishing place as early as the time of Julius Cæsar; it was called *Forum Julii*, had then a port upon the Mediterranean, from which it is now one mile and a half distant, and is supposed to have been founded by a colony from Marseilles. Many monuments of its ancient grandeur still remain, such as an aqueduct, an amphitheatre, statues, inscriptions, &c. History relates that Julius Cæsar established his magazine here for the conquest of Gaul, at which time these splendid edifices were constructed. Frejus is the birth-place of that great Roman general and philosopher Agricola.

92. DIGNE is a city, and capital of the department of the Lower Alps, situated on the small river Mirabel, at the foot of some mountains, 15 miles S.E. of Sisteron, and 30 S.W. of Embrun. It contains about 3000 inhabitants, and has some celebrated mineral waters, used both externally and internally.

93. Pursuing our route to the north, we arrive at SISTERON, a town in the department of the Lower Alps, situated on the Durance, with a small citadel on a rock, which was the prison of Casimir V. king of Poland, 15 miles N.W. of Digne, formerly a bishop's see.

94. Before we come to Embrun, we must notice GAP, a city, and capital of the department of the Higher Alps, 50 miles S. of Grenoble, and 18 W. of Embrun. Before the revolution it was the see of a bishop, and capital of a country called Gapençois. In 1692 the town was taken and burned by the Duke of Savoy; near it is a mineral spring.

95. EMBRUN, a city, in the department of the Higher Alps, seated on the Durance, 56 miles S.E. of Grenoble, formerly the see of an archbishop, containing five parishes and about 12,000 inhabitants. It was taken in 1692 by Victor Amadeus II. king of Sardinia, but abandoned soon after. Louis XIV.,

A Liquor Merchant



A Bellows Maker

after this circumstance, built Mont Dauphin, as a protection to the city.

96. Seventeen miles N.E. of Embrun is BRIANCON; it is situated in the department of the Upper Alps, on the Durance, over which there is a bridge 180 feet high, and was formerly the capital of Briançonnois. It is built at the foot of a rock upon which is its castle and, from its situation, is esteemed the highest town in Europe. Briançon is celebrated for its manna; it is very rare in Europe, is a sort of white gum very sweet and sugary, which oozes during the great heats of summer from a sort of pines, unknown elsewhere, called *Melèses*; at first it runs of itself from the leaves and small branches, on which it remains attached in little globules; afterwards incisions are made in the trees to cause it to run in greater quantities. An abundant produce of this is indicative of great drought, bad seasons, and bad harvests.

This is one of the *seven wonders* which Dauphiny contains; it was a saying of Louis XI., when Dauphin, "that this province had as many wonders as the whole world;" he might have added, that those are still in existence, and that the wonders of the world are only to be found in history. The first of them is a mountain of prodigious height, 15 miles from Grenoble, steep on all sides, separated from the neighbouring mountains, and much larger at the top than bottom, so that at a distance it appears like a pyramid reversed. The second is a burning fountain, 8 miles from Grenoble, famous in the time of Augustin, and mentioned by him, *Civ. Dei*, c. vii. l. 21. Its waters are naturally cold, but when its stream is turned to pass along a neighbouring field the flames are perceived; still the water continues cold as long as it runs, though covered with flames; but if its course is stopped with sods of earth, then it is overcast, and becomes thick and hot. It is supposed that there are subterraneous fires under this field, from which it raises exhalations to produce these wonderful effects; or probably they are of bituminous origin. The third is the manna. The fourth is a grotto on the banks of the Rhone, amazingly large and deep, called "*La Balme*." The water, which falls drop by drop from the top of the rock, crystallizes, and forms a variety of curious figures by its congelation. There are a great many natural fountains in it; and, about a thousand paces in, there is a lake, a league in length, upon which Francis I. caused two boats to be carried. The fifth are the immense stone cisterns of Sassenage, called "*Les Caves de Sassenage*." The sixth is

also found at the foot of the mountains of Sassenage; they are stones nearly of the size and figure of a lentil, very smooth, of a white colour, which, they say, have the wonderful property of cleansing the eye of any dust or other inconvenience that may enter it, by putting one of them between the eye and eye-lid, when, running round the eye, it drives out the cause of the pain, and then falls to the ground. SASSENAGE is a town in the department of the Isere, about 3 miles E. of Grenoble, contains many other curiosities, and is also celebrated for its cheese. The seventh is the "Tour sans venin," about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Grenoble, so called because there has never been seen either in this tower, which is half ruined and decayed, or in the neighbourhood, any of those venomous insects which seek an asylum in old forsaken buildings; even when brought here, they immediately disappear. This has been imputed to the air, or some plants near the tower to which they have an aversion.

97. We next come to the important city of GRENOBLE, the capital of the department of the Isere, situated on the river Isere, near its confluence with the Drac, 58 miles S. E. of Lyons, and 100 W. of Turin. Before the revolution it was the capital of Dauphiny, the see of a bishop, and the seat of a parliament. It stands at the foot of a hill, in a fruitful plain. Grenoble was ranked among the most beautiful cities of France for its houses, churches, and public *places* and buildings. The cathedral is very ancient; and among the churches that of the Jacobins is also ancient, and much admired for the architecture of its choir, as well as for a monument of Andrew, son of Hubert, last Prince of Dauphiny, who fell through a window whilst sporting in the arms of his father. There were a great many convents, monasteries, chartreuses and hospitals in Grenoble; the governor's palace and parliament-house were superb building; there are two bridges over the Isere, one of stone, the other of wood on piles of stone. The bishops of Grenoble were styled princes. Without the town was a convent of Minims, where the illustrious Chevalier Bayard, by whom alone Francis I. would be knighted, was interred, whose uncle was the founder.

98. About nine miles from Grenoble is the GRANDE CHARTREUSE, a celebrated monastery, the chief of the order, where St. Bruno, retiring from the world about 1086, formed his retreat. It is in a most romantic situation at the entrance of a rocky vale, which is about half a league long and two or three hundred paces broad, and walled round, as it were, with

mountains covered with firs and pines. The church of the monastery is wainscoted and inlaid in a most singular and admirable manner; the cloister is 300 paces long, where were to be seen the prior's apartment and chapel, the apartments of the king, of the bishop of Grenoble and of the visitors, &c. There was a grand hall here ornamented with many pictures representing the principal chartreuses of Europe. As the building had no symmetry in its design, its situation being very uneven, and made at different times, it is necessary to ascend and descend continually in going from one part of it to another. There is a mountain torrent and a chapel at the extremity of the valley, where St. Bruno used to perform penance. The chapel is large, was filled with beautiful paintings, and built upon the spot where the monks say the Virgin appeared to the holy man. In this place as well as other parts of the monastery the actions of St. Bruno are depicted.

99. We now turn to the S. W. to describe VALENCE, a city and capital of the department of the Drome, on the left bank of the Rhone, 65 miles N. of Avignon, and 43 S.W. of Grenoble. It was formerly a bishop's see and capital of the principality called Valentinois. In 1454 an university was brought here from Grenoble. The town is delightfully situated in a plain six or eight miles in breadth, and was well known to the Romans under the name of *Valentia*, so named from its healthy site, or from the military strength of its situation. The rocks in its vicinity give it an air of great wildness, but the town has nothing but its situation to recommend it. The streets are narrow, without air, and very dirty. There is a church of very remote antiquity; it was evidently built by the Romans, but has been so much altered, that it is difficult to say whether its original destination was a theatre or a temple. Provisions are incomparably cheap here, groceries alone excepted, which throughout all France are double the price they bear in England.

100. MONTELMART is a town in the department of the Drome, 25 miles S. of Valence, and 44 N. of Avignon. It is situated in a plain, covered with corn and vineyards, and here and there interspersed with tufts of chestnut trees, which give it a rural and pleasing appearance. It is built on the bank of the small river Robiou, which runs into the Rhone, is a walled town and has usually a strong garrison; however it has the same character as all the other towns on the Rhone, the streets

are narrow, and the houses low. The inhabitants of Montelimart are said to have been the first in France who embraced the doctrines of the reformation. There are here some manufactures of wool, silk and leather. The road from Valence to Montelimart especially approaching the latter, is lined with chestnut and mulberry trees, and plentifully intersected with vineyards and orchards. For mile succeeding mile it is more like a garden than an open country; the fields are covered with flowers, the hedges of the vineyards breathe forth a most delightful odour, and every thing tends to cheer the heart, and to refresh the senses. Most of the cottages are delightfully situated, but are invariably without glass to the windows, and the climate is so dry and mild, that they sleep with them thus exposed.

101. Let us now cross the Rhone to mention PRIVAS, a city and capital of the department of the Ardeche, 14 miles S.W. of Valence. It is situated on a small river about 5 miles from the Rhone, and contains about 1500 inhabitants.

102. Pursuing our south-westerly direction, we must stop a moment at MENDE, a city and capital of the department of Lozere, 45 miles E. of Rhodéz, and 54 S.W. of Privas. It is seated on an eminence near the Lot, and contains about 5000 inhabitants. Before the revolution it was the see of a bishop.

103. The next place worth mention that we arrive at, is RHODEZ, a city and capital of the department of the Aveiron, 74 miles N.E. of Toulouse. Before the revolution it was a bishop's see. Here are four great annual fairs where mules are sold for Spain, and some manufactures of coarse cloth. The lofty steeple of the cathedral is much admired. The town is situated in the midst of mountains, on a hill, at the foot of which flows the Aveiron.

104. We again change our course, and, after passing through many small towns and villages, reach the city of TULLE, the capital of the department of Correze, which is the only claim it has to our attention. Before the revolution it was the capital of Lower Limosin and a bishop's see; it is situated at the confluence of the rivers Correze and Solan; the cathedral was remarkable for its spire.

105. To the west of Tulle, is **PERIGUEUX**, a city and capital of the department of Dordogne, 50 miles S.W. of Limoges, formerly the capital of Perigord, a bishop's see and residence of a governor. It is situated on the river Ille, and contains about 6000 inhabitants. There are some remains of Roman antiquities here, the chief are a temple of Venus and an amphitheatre. Perigueux is famous for its partridge pies, which are sent all over Europe.

106. **LIMOGES** is the next place we mention, a city and capital of the department of Upper Vienne, 108 miles N. E. of Bourdeaux, and 200 S. of Paris. It stands among hills near the river Vienne, and was formerly the capital of Limosin and a bishop's see. It is a town of considerable trade, and has a population of 13,000 persons. Limoges is situated partly in a valley and partly on the top of a small hill; it is very long, but not broad, contains many churches, colleges, convents, &c. and some squares with fountains in them; the narrow and crooked streets of this city are a proof of its antiquity, but the houses are generally built of mud, or a composition made with sand and chopped hay, and the roofs advance so far over the street that the sun can scarcely be seen at mid-day. The fortifications consist in deep fosses. Cæsar found Limoges strong, large and populous. This place was taken from the Visigoths, by the French, under Clovis, after whose death it came to the dukes of Aquitaine, and in dowry with Eleonora, to Henry II. of England; after which it fell with the rest of the country to the kings of France.

107. Directly east of Limoges is **CLERMONT**, a city and capital of the department of the Puy de Dôme, 84 miles W. of Lyons, and 210 S. of Paris, formerly the capital of Auvergne and a bishop's see. It is situated on a small eminence, in one of the most fertile districts of France, is a well-built and pleasant town, and contains about 30,000 inhabitants. Mountains, and hills covered with vines, surround this place on one side in the manner of a horse-shoe, and on the other side is a delightful prospect of a rich and agreeable country. The cathedral, which has four handsome towers, is remarkable for its architecture and grandeur; there were three other churches, an abbey repaired by Pope Paschal II. and some public buildings worthy of observation. Its commerce is in corn, wine, wool, woollen stuffs, tammies, serges, linen, lace, &c. There are some mineral springs near; and the water of a brook, which

passes through one of the fauxbourgs, so thoroughly petrified a wooden bridge that carriages can pass over it. A council was held here in the year 1095, to determine on the crusade against the infidels in the Holy Land in the pontificate of Urban II.

108. The palace or castle of CHANTILLY, about 10 miles S.S.E. of Clermont, was a most noble building, and no one can behold its ruins without feelings of distress and regret. It formerly belonged to the family of Montmorenci, and devolved to the house of Condé by marriage with the heiress, when the male line of that famous family, the head of which styled himself the first Christian baron, failed. The ground floor is the only part now remaining perfect ; it formerly served as offices and cellars. The orangery was 400 feet square, but not a vestige remains ; and the whole of these gardens, which were so delightful in the time of Louis XVI. full of canals, fountains and cascades, are a complete ruin. No remains of the celebrated water-works are to be seen ; nor of the armoury, in which were preserved the armour of the Princes of Condé and of the old family of Montmorenci, that of some of the kings of France, of Joan of Arc, and of another French amazon of an illustrious family. The tennis-court is still in good preservation, but the theatre was destroyed. A small chateau is also standing, which was lately fitted up for the reception of Louis XVIII. on his way to Paris ; he went however by Compeigne. The stables are well known as a vast and elegant building capable of holding 400 horses. Adjoining are several dog-kennels as magnificent as the stables, and a large court surrounded with buildings and apartments for the officers and servants belonging to the stables. The stables are 350 feet long and 200 feet high ; and are a noble monument of the former splendour of this interesting spot. The household of the Prince of Condé consisted of above 500 persons. The forest of Chantilly is very fine, and extended many miles in circumference. This forest, like the many others which surround Paris, within 20 miles of that city, is cut through with wide paths which meet in one or more centres, according to the size of the wood, and form stars. The paths are for the purpose of hunting.

It appears that the whole of this magnificent place had been purchased by a petty builder, in the revolutionary period, for the sake of the materials ; who had no sooner completed his instalments than he began the demolition of the building, and cutting down the trees. Buonaparte, however, having been made first Consul, before the whole was destroyed, it was repurchased, and became the property of the government.

109. Before we proceed to Lyons, our route conducts us through a mountainous district to **AURILLAC**, a town in the department of Cantal, before the revolution the capital of Lower Auvergne; it is seated in a fertile valley, on the river Jordanne, 30 miles W. of St. Flour, and 250 S. of Paris. It is a populous trading town, and one of the most thriving in France, has manufactures of lace and velvet, and is full of busy workshops, cutlers, copper-smiths, curriers, shoe-makers and tanners, all following their occupations with that sort of spirit which implies and ensures prosperity. There is a Haras, or Depot de Chevaux, at Aurillac, for the supply of the royal stud. It contains in royal stables, formerly a convent, about 35 horses, several of them chargers of the Emperor. His famous white Arabian (Superbe) is of the number. The air is very healthy at Aurillac; there is a canal in each street, which carries off all uncleanness into the Jordanne.

110. The city of **ST. FLOUR** must be noticed as the capital of the department of Cantal, 50 miles S. of Clermont, formerly the capital of Upper Auvergne, and see of a bishop. It is situated on a hill, by the river Ladour; and the inhabitants carry on a considerable trade in corn, and manufacture cloth, carpets and cutlery.

111. Pursuing a westerly course, we reach **LE PUY**, a city and capital of the department of the Upper Loire, seated on the mountain Anis, 67 miles S.W. of Lyons, formerly a bishop's see. The cathedral is famous for a prodigious quantity of relics, and our Lady of Puy is celebrated in the annals of superstition. The late canons of Puy have had kings and dukes of France at their head. It stands on a small river near the Loire, has a considerable trade, especially in lace, with a population of about 14,000.

112 **ST. ETIENNE** is an important town in the same department, 28 miles S.S.W. of Lyons. It was surrounded with walls by Charles VII. but from the increased population they are of little use; the inhabitants are about 18,000; the principal manufactures in arms, hardware and cutlery to be found in France are here; the ribbon manufacture is also very considerable; and there are some rich coal mines, and soft stones fit for grind-stones, in the neighbourhood. It is seated on the brook Eureus, the water of which is excellent for tempering metals.

113. LYONS is the second city in France in point of size and population, and superior to Paris in trade, commerce and manufactures; it is the capital of the department of the Rhone and Loire, and is situated, by the side of two high mountains, at the confluence of the Rhone and Saone, about 240 miles S. S. E. of Paris. Nothing can be more delightful than the approach to, and situation of Lyons; distributed as it were on hills and dales, at the confluence of two of the loveliest rivers in the world, with lawns, corn-fields, woods and vine-yards interposed, and gardens, trees, &c. intermixed with the houses, all which give it an air of liveliness, animation, cleanness and rural beauty, which seldom belong to a populous city. The distant Alps, too, rising in the back ground, add magnificence to beauty. It was founded ten years before the birth of Christ, by Lucius Munatius Plancus, and peopled by a colony of Romans, who had been driven from Vienne by the Allobroges. About the year 145 it was totally destroyed by fire, but was rebuilt by the munificence of Nero; many vestiges of antiquity still remaining evince its Roman origin. Before its recent calamities it contained about 160,000 inhabitants, was a generality, and the see of an archbishop, who was primate of France, and who had formerly great political power over the Lyonnais.

The Saone runs through Lyons and divides it into two parts, which are connected by three bridges; the largest and most populous part lies on a tongue of land, at the point of which was an immense abbey. The cathedral is a large Gothic building, and beautifully situated near the river; its clock is a great favourite with the inhabitants, which is ormented by a cock, so contrived as to crow every hour. Before the revolution, the church of Lyons was the richest in France, or Europe. All the canons were counts, and were not admissible till they had proved sixteen quarters of nobility; they wore a gold cross of eight rays. There are many other very large and handsome churches, and the houses in general are high and well built. The town-house is esteemed one of the most beautiful in Europe. It is in the form of a parallelogram, with wings on each side of the front, each wing being nearly 150 yards in length. The middle of the wings are crowned with cupolas, and the gates have all Ionic pillars. But the best praise of Lyons is in its charitable institutions, hospitals and schools. In no city in the world have they so great a proportion to the population and size of the town; they are equal to the support of one eight of the inhabitants. The *Hotel de Dieu* is, in fact, a palace built for the sick poor; the rooms are lofty with cupolas, and all of them

A Mellon Merchant



A Fruit Girl



very carefully ventilated; the beds are extremely clean, so is the kitchen, and every utensil in it. The offices of nursing, feeding, &c. of the sick are performed by a religious society of about 100 men and the same number of women, who devote themselves to these purposes. The men are dressed in black, and the women in the habits of nuns. This charity is open to all nations; to be an admissible object, nothing further is necessary than to stand in need of its assistance. This is true charity. Lyons has six gates and four suburbs, and, before the revolution, the other public buildings were four abbeys, fifty convents, three public schools, two colleges, two general hospitals, an academy of arts, sciences and belles-lettres, an exchange, a custom-house, a palace of justice, a veterinary school, two theatres, a public library, three forts, an arsenal well supplied and arranged, magnificent quays, &c.

The trade is immense with Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Holland, England, and with other parts of France; there are four celebrated fairs every year. The manufactures are not now in the same flourishing state as formerly, in consequence of being confined in their supply to the home market. Some years since the silk stockings alone worked up at Lyons were estimated at 1500 pair daily.

The horrible ravages of the revolution have much defaced this town. La Place de Belle Cour was once the finest square which any provincial town in Europe could boast. It was composed of the most magnificent houses, the habitations of such of the nobility as were accustomed to reside at Lyons. That demon in human shape, Collot d'Herbois, being sent to Lyons as one of the Jacobin commissioners, by one and the same decree condemned the houses to be rased to the ground, and their possessors to be guillotined.

Early in the revolution an union was formed between Lyons, Marseilles and Toulon, under the title of a Federal Republic, contrary to the general wish, which was for a republic one and indivisible. Lyons was consequently declared to be in a state of rebellion; and after a siege of two months, in which the Lyonnese lost 2000 men, and great part of the city was reduced to ashes, it surrendered. It is supposed that not less than 70,000 persons in this unfortunate city alone were either put to death or forced into exile; besides the almost constant operation of the guillotine, they were driven in great numbers into the Rhine, and hurried in crowds to the squares to be massacred by fire-arms and artillery. By a decree of the convention the walls and public buildings were ordered to be destroyed, and the name of the city itself to be changed to that of *Ville Affranchie*; but

this decree was afterwards repealed. Provisions, lodgings, houses, &c. are very cheap in Lyons, and the society is select and well informed, which render it a very desirable place of residence for foreigners. It was entered by the allies, in March 1814, but evacuated by them on the restoration of the Bourbons.

Lyons has given birth to many celebrated men; among them was *De Lanzy*, the well-known mathematician, and friend of Maupertuis. He lived to such an extreme age as to survive his memory and faculties; but when so insensible as to know no one about him, Maupertuis suddenly asked him what was the square of 12, and he readily replied 144, and died, it is said, almost in the same moment. This illustrious genius was as simple as he was learned, and was yet more distinguished by his charities than his learning. The celebrated *Thon* was also a native of this place. Lyons is connected by a stone bridge with the beautiful village La Guillotiere; it consists of 20 arches, and is upwards of 1560 feet in length.

The best view of Lyons is from the mountain Fourviere, opposite the peninsula upon which the largest part of the city is built; on the side and at the base of this mountain the other part is stretched along the Saone in the form of an amphitheatre. The summit of Fourviere is crowned with a church, which is a striking object in the approach to Lyons. In the neighbourhood of the city are numerous chateaux, most delightfully situated, with lawns, pleasure-grounds, gardens, &c. in the English taste. In the summer season, public breakfasts are almost daily given by one or other of the possessors. Marquees are then erected on the lawn, and all the military bands in the town attend; and the day and great part of the night is consumed in dancing and various amusements.

114. Forty-five miles N.W. of Lyons, in the same department, is the large town of **ROANNE**, seated on the Loire. It is very ancient, and its appearance corresponds with its antiquity: the streets are narrow, crooked and dirty; and the houses shabby. Indeed Roanne deserves notice only from its situation on the Loire where it first begins to be navigable, which renders it a place of great bustle, and a convenient staple for all the merchandize, corn, wine, &c. sent from Lyons and other places down the Loire, and by the canal of Briare into the Seine, and thence to Paris, Orleans, Nantes, &c.

115. Turning to the west from Roanne, we pass through Cusset, Montaigu, &c. to **GUERET**, a city and capital of the department of the Creuse, 35 miles N.E. of Limoges. It

is situated near the source of the river Gartempe, between two mountains, at some distance from the Creuse, and was formerly the capital of the province of Marche. The air is thick, which gives the inhabitants a heavy, melancholy appearance; the population is about 3000.

116. Our route next conducts us through Preuilly to TOURS, a city and capital of the department of the Indre and Loire, 127 miles S. S. W. of Paris; before the revolution it was the capital of Touraine, a generality and see of an archbishop. Nothing can be more charming than the situation of this town; in a plain between two rivers, the Loire and the Cher, and this plain subdivided into compartments of every variety of cultivated land, corn fields studded with fruit trees, and a range of hills in the distance covered with vineyards to their summits, whilst every eminence has its villa, abbey, or ruined tower. The cities in France, at least those on the Loire, have all somewhat of a rural character: this may be imputed to their comparative want of trade and manufacture. In France trade has more room than she can well fill, and there are few towns but have larger quays than their commerce requires, and still fewer but what have more manufactures than they have capital to keep them employed. Tours has a gay, brisk and clean appearance. There is here a very noble bridge over the Loire, of 15 arches, each 75 feet in diameter; at one end of the bridge is the castle, composed of many round towers. In the reign of the unfortunate Louis a great part of the town was burned down, and nearly the whole of the main street was laid out and rebuilt at the expense of that monarch. What before was close and narrow was then widened, and the houses were built of a white stone so as to give this part of the town a perfect resemblance to Bath; the street is 2400 feet long and crosses the whole city; the population is 33,000.

The cathedral is open at all hours in the day, and with more decency than in England, at the exhibition of public national buildings, is not shown for money.—And here I would observe, by the way, that this practice of extorting a pecuniary gratification from those who are curious and inquisitive enough to examine such places as the Tower of London, St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, &c. &c. is a disgrace to a free and honourable nation, and mean and pitiful in the highest degree. There is nothing of the sort in any other kingdom in the world; and foreigners are disgusted and indignant at finding *our* monuments of national greatness turned into a puppet-show.—The cathedral of Tours possesses a library of most valuable manuscripts;

amongst these is a copy of the Pentateuch, written in the alphabet of the country upwards of eleven hundred years ago. There is likewise a copy of the four Evangelists, written in Saxon letters, in the beginning of the fifth century, about fifty years after Constantine declared Christianity to be the religion of the Roman empire. St. Martin's Church is celebrated for being the largest in France, and for the tomb of St. Martin, whom tradition reports to be buried here; the tomb is of black marble, behind the great altar, and is very simple and striking. The ancient kings of France used to come to this tomb previous to any of their important expeditions; and after having made the usual prayers of intercession, used to take away the mantle of the saint, as the banner under which they were to fight: this mantle still remains. There was formerly a silk manufactory here, very extensive and celebrated, but at present it is in a drooping condition: there is also a ribbon manufactory, but the ribbons produced are very inferior to those of England. Provisions, house-rent, fuel, &c. are very cheap; the former very plentiful, and the latter must be considered as an exception to the general high price of it in France. The name of the Huguonots, a party which so fatally divided France during three reigns, originated in one of the gates of this city, which is called the Hugon gate, from Hugo, an ancient count of Tours.

The provinces of Touraine and the Limosin have been the favourite of painters and poets from time immemorial. Here the Troubadours have built their castles, have settled their magicians, and bound their ladies in enchanted gardens. In Touraine and all the country on the banks of the Loire, there is scarcely a glen, a grove, or a shady recess, but what has its fairy or elfin tale belonging to it. What one of the French poets has said of the Seine may be said with more truth of the Loire, "All its women are queens, and all its young men poets." The climate exactly corresponds with this singular beauty of the country. In many years there is no such thing as snow, and frosts are not frequent, and never severe; the rainy weather comes usually at once, and is confined to the spring; there are no fogs and vapours as in the northern parts of the kingdom: the spring is a continuation of such weather as is seen in England about the middle of May. The *vent de bize* is very rare in these provinces; the great heats are from the middle of July to the middle of August. During this time the climate of Touraine exceeds any thing that is common in England. The heaths are covered with thyme,

lavender, rosemary, and the juniper-tree ; nothing can be more delightful than the fragrance, when the wind blows over them. The hedges are every where interspersed with flowers, and there are blossoms of some kind or other throughout the year. There are some drawbacks, however from this excellence of climate ; the countries south of the Loire are subject to violent storms of rain and hail, and the latter is sometimes so violent as to beat down all the corn and vintage on which it may fall : these hail-storms are not so frequent now as formerly ; they used to come on with a violence which swept away every thing before them, destroying cattle and killing even men. Such storms however are now considered as natural phenomena.

117. About a mile from Tours is the cidevant royal palace of PLESSIS-LES-TOURS, famous for having been the scene of the illness and death of the superstitious tyrant Louis XI. in 1483. The walls were covered with iron spikes, and a continual guard kept watch during the last sad hours of the guilty and expiring monarch ; notwithstanding he had the precaution to be covered all over with relics, and would never permit Vincent de Paul, who was sent for from Italy on purpose, to be out of his sight. The building is yet handsome, and perfect in all its parts, though built in 1450 and composed of brick, is pleasantly situated, being surrounded with wood, and has some large apartments. In the chapel is a portrait of the tyrant, in complete armour, which is considered a masterpiece, and is much admired. The castle is now converted to purposes of commerce.

118. About 20 miles S.S.E. of Tours, in the same department, on the river Indre, is the town of LOCHES, chiefly noted for its castle, which stands on a rock and was formerly a very important fortification. The castle of Loches is very famous in the history of France, and was in former ages the usual place of confinement for prisoners of the highest quality. its origin remounts to the most remote antiquity, nor is there any tradition which pretends to ascertain the name of its founder or the time of its construction. It has been enlarged, rebuilt and fortified by successive sovereigns, and had four ranges of subterraneous passages runing over each other. Charles VII. frequently resided and held his court here ; and René, Duke of Alençon, one of the princes of the blood, was long detained a prisoner here, by that monarch's order, for his treasonable

practices and introducing the English into the kingdom. In a very large and ancient square tower, are two cages with very strong oak grates, covered with iron, about 11 feet square, in one of which the cruel Louis XI. confined the Cardinal de la Balue more than nine years. In the uppermost of the subterraneous passages is the chamber where the perfidious Ludovico Sforza the Moor, Duke of Milan, was imprisoned by Louis XII. for ten years, and where he died in 1510. It is a large vaulted apartment, with one window secured by three gratings of iron, through which the sun in the midst of summer about noon, darts its rays for a few minutes. On the wall exactly opposite are distinctly to be traced the remains of a dial or meridian, upon which the beams of the sun darted, and which, they say, was cut by the hand of Sforza to amuse himself in his hours of solitude; the walls and roof are covered with inscriptions now illegible. The "Oubliettes," or subterranean dungeons, are labyrinths hollowed into the earth of a vast extent and totally destitute of light; the air itself is so moist and unwholesome as almost to extinguish the flambeaus. Circular holes are pointed out in many places of the incumbent rock, through which they let down the wretched victims destined to perish in these caverns; doors of massy iron closed up the entrance and prevented all possibility of succour or escape. The greater part of the castle is now in ruins.

In the principal church of Loches is the tomb of the celebrated Agnes Soreille, surnamed the *beautiful Agnes*, because, says Monstrelet, *qu'entre les plus belles femmes elle étoit la plus belle*. Her monument was elegant, of black marble, and on it are her effigies executed in white alabaster. She is the heroine of this part, and a thousand fables respecting her beauty, liberality, magnanimity and power over the king Charles VII. are yet preserved; she was the lady of Beaulieu.

119. Leaving the very delightful neighbourhood of Tours, we bend our course towards Evreux, but first notice CHATEAUDUN, a town in the department of the Eure and Loire, on an eminence near the Loire, containing about 3000 inhabitants, 30 miles N. of Blois. There is a castle here built by the famous Count of Dunois. The streets are straight, the houses uniform, and the great square spacious.

120. EVREUX is a city and capital of the department of the Eure, seated on the Iton, 26 miles S. of Rouen, and 55 almost W. of Paris. Before the revolution it was a bishop's see

and contained eight parishes; the cathedral is a handsome structure. Evreux has a manufactory of cotton velvets, and another of ticken, which is not inferior to that of Brussels; these, with woollen and linen cloth, lace, grain, wine and cider, constitute the chief articles of commerce.

121. Our route now conducts us very near the capital, to **ST. GERMAIN**, a town in the department of the Seine and Oise, situated on the Seine, near a fine forest, 10 miles W.N.W. of Paris. Robert king of France built a palace here, which was destroyed by the English in the year 1346; another palace was erected by Francis I. which several succeeding kings enlarged, particularly Louis XIV. who was born here. Here also James II. of England found an asylum when he fled to France.

122. We next notice **BRETEUIL**, a town in the department of the Oise, 18 miles S. of Amiens, and 52 N. of Paris. It is a very dirty, paltry town; the houses are all built in the ancient style, and bear an unfavourable resemblance to English farm-houses; their gable ends are turned to the streets, and the chimneys are nearly as large as the roofs. The country, however, in the immediate environs of Breteuil is very beautiful, and for five or six miles beyond the town towards Clermont the scenery is enchanting. The vines commence here, the road is fringed with orchards, and even the corn-fields are hedged round with apple trees. In the middle of every field is an elm or a chestnut, which has a very pleasing and animating effect.

123. **BEAUVAIS** is a city and capital of the department of Oise, situated on the Thesin, 44 miles E. of Rouen and 40 N. of Paris. It was formerly the capital of the province of Beauvaisis, and the see of a bishop, who was one of the twelve peers of France. The cathedral is much admired for its choir and fine architecture; besides this there are six collegiate, and three parish churches, among which that of St. Stephen is remarkable for its curious windows. Beauvais was besieged by the English, in the year 1443, but without success; and by the Duke of Burgundy, in 1472, to as little purpose, though at the head of 80,000 men. In the latter siege the women of Beauvais gave great proofs of their courage under the conduct of Jean de Hachette, whose portrait is preserved in the town-house; and, in memory of their brave defence, the women walk first in a procession, kept annually on the 10th of July.

124. SENLIS is a town in the same department, formerly a bishop's see, and noted for its cathedral, which has one of the highest steeples in France. It is seated on the declivity of a hill, by the river Nonette, almost surrounded by a large forest, is 33 miles N. N. E. of Paris, and contains about 5000 inhabitants.

125. Forty-five miles N. E. of Paris is COMPEIGNE, also in the same department, at the conflux of the Aisne and Oise, near a forest containing 27,000 acres. The town is irregularly built; the principal commerce consists in corn, wine, and wood; the wine is much esteemed, and the population is estimated at 7000. But the most interesting object at Compeigne is its *palace*, which is a handsome building, superbly furnished for the reception of Marie Louise. Here it was that she first met Buonaparte, and nine days after their marriage they returned to it and passed a month. The palace of Compeigne suffered much in the counter-revolution, since it was defended by twenty pieces of cannon and in consequence was attacked. One cannon ball entered into the chamber of Marie Louise, struck off part of the foot from one of the fine gilt figures which supported the drapery of the bed, and lodged in the arm of a large velvet chair. The library was much damaged as several balls entered, and scarcely a room escaped, yet the furniture suffered less than might have been expected: several very fine pier glasses were broken to atoms, yet not one person either in the town or palace was killed or wounded, but about 100 of the military fell on the outside of Compeigne. Louis XVIII. and the Duchess d'Angouleme rested here several days on their way to Paris. The Duchess slept in a room which was formerly Marie Antoinette's, and a very elegant cabinet belonging to that unfortunate queen was placed in this apartment. Napoleon was building a gallery at this palace; it is in an unfinished state: the best of the paintings and most of the noble tapestry were removed to Paris on the approach of the allies.—The Maid of Orleans was taken prisoner here in 1430.

126. Continuing our route towards the eastern frontier, we reach SOISSONS, a city in the department of the Aisne, situated in a fertile valley, on the Aisne, 30 miles W. of Rheims, and 60 N. E. of Paris. It was formerly a bishop's see, the capital of the kingdom of Soissonnois, an earldom and a generality. The cathedral has one of the largest chapters in the empire, and

the bishops had the privilege, in the absence of the archbishop of Rheims, of crowning the kings, as was the case of St. Louis, Philip the Bad and Louis XIV. This town was considerable in the time of Julius Cæsar, and was then called *Noviodunum*. It afterwards took the name of *Suessiones*, from the people, and remained among the last subject to the Romans. At the death of Clovis I. his son Clothaire made it his residence. In the year 922, a battle was fought here, between Charles the Simple king of France, and Robert duke of France; in which the latter lost his life, though his party, under his son and the count of Vermandois, obtained the victory. The environs are beautiful, but the streets are narrow, and the houses ill built. It contains about 12,000 inhabitants. Soissons was taken and retaken several times by the allied and French armies, in 1814, when the town sustained considerable injury.

127. Before we proceed to St Quentin, let us stop at LAON, a city and capital of the department of the Aisne, seated on a hill, 77 miles N.E. of Paris. Before the revolution it was the capital of Laonnois, and the see of a bishop, who was a duke and the second peer of France. It contains about 8000 inhabitants, is noted for excellent artichokes, and has a brisk trade in corn and wine. In the late counter-revolution, previous to the allies reaching Paris, there were some dreadful battles fought here between the Prussians under Blucher and the French army, in which both sides claimed the victory.

128. ST. QUENTIN is a strong town in the department of the Aisne, situated on a rising ground near the Somme, 21 miles S. of Cambray and 83 N.N.E. of Paris. In the year 1557 the French were defeated by the Spaniards in this neighbourhood, under Philip II. in consequence of which the town fell into the hands of the latter. In memory of this he built the Escuriat. St. Quentin is a dull, dirty place, with a population of nearly 12,000. It has a considerable manufactory of lawns and cambrics.

129. MEZIERES is a city and capital of the department of the Ardennes, 44 miles N.N.E. of Rheims, and 127 N.E. of Paris. It is a strong town, situated on an island formed by the river Meuse, over which it has two bridges, with a citadel. This place was besieged, in the year 1521, by the troops of the Emperor Charles V. under the command of the Count of Nassau; but the Chevalier Bayard, who defended the town, compelled

them to raise the siege. The citadel was built by Captain St. Paul, one of the chiefs of the leaguers, who called himself a marshal of France, and hoped to become king of the Rethelois and Mezieres, under the protection of the king of Spain.

130. A few miles to the east of Mezieres, and 135 N. N. E. of Paris, is SEDAN, a considerable town, in the department of the Ardennes, seated on the river Maese. It was formerly the capital of a principality. Sedan is considered as one of the keys of the kingdom, and being on the frontiers was a very important place, strongly fortified with a castle, different bastions, many horn and outworks, and large and deep ditches, cut out of the solid rock. The celebrated Marshal Turenne was born in this castle. It has a well-furnished arsenal, a cannon foundry, and a manufacture of black cloths of a superior quality; the woollen manufacture of Sedan has for a long time been held, and is still held, in the greatest estimation; insomuch that many manufacturers, not only in France, but in England and Holland, both of which certainly as far excel France in this branch as she excels them in others, have had the word *Sedan* marked upon their cloths as a sort of passport to fame and excellence.

131. Altering our course, and turning south-west from Sedan, the next place of importance we meet with is RHEIMS, one of the most ancient and celebrated cities of all France, situated on the Vesle, in a plain surrounded by hills, in the department of the Marne, 78 miles E. N. E. of Paris. Before the revolution, it was the see of an archbishop, who was the first duke and peer of France, and and who always crowned the king since the time of Clovis, who was here baptized upon his conversion from paganism. The abbey of Benedictines of St. Remy here was one of the noblest belonging to that order in France; and on the altar of its church, under which St. Remigius lies buried, was kept the holy vial, or *ampoule*, in the shape of a pear, filled with a red congealed liquor; which, according to the story, in the year 496, at the baptism of Clovis, by bishop Remigius, was brought from heaven by a dove, at the prayer of that saint, the crowd hindering him from being able to come to the font with the usual oil! The university was founded in the years 1547 and 1549, authorised by the parliament of Paris. This city carries on a considerable trade in wine and gingerbread, and there are manufactures of woollen and silk stuffs. There are several remains of Roman antiquities, particularly an am-

phitheatre, a castle, a triumphal arch, and three gates of the city, which to this day bear the names of so many pagan deities, viz. the Sun, Mars and Ceres. The city is long and narrow, and the houses low; the cathedral, built before the year 406, is a very beautiful and curious Gothic structure celebrated for the delicacy and magnificence of its portal. The population is estimated at 40,000. This city was also taken and retaken several times by the French and allied armies, in 1814; and, as may be supposed, greatly suffered in consequence.

132. From Rheims we proceed to **CHALONS SUR MARNE**, a city and capital of the department of the Marne, 94 miles E. of Paris. It is situated on the river Marne, contains thirteen parishes and about 18,000 inhabitants, and was formerly a bishop's see. There are manufactures of coarse woollen cloth here.

133. A few miles to the south-east of Chalons is **BAR-LE-DUC**, the capital of the department of the Meuse; it is 35 miles N.W. of Nancy, and 138 E. of Paris, and was formerly the capital of the duchy of Bar. The wine of this place is excellent, fully equal to Champagne. It is a considerable town, divided into Upper and Lower, the separation being formed by a castle called *Bar*, which is, as it were a barrier between France and Lorraine; the walls and towers of this castle were demolished by Louis XIV. The river Ornain runs through the lower part of the town; the whole place contains about 8000 inhabitants. At *Domremy la Pucelle*, a village in the same department, nine miles E. of Bar-le-Duc, Joan of Arc, the far-famed Maid of Orleans, was born.

134. We again alter our course to notice **VARENNES**, where Louis XVI. his queen, with the dauphin, the princess royal, and princess Elizabeth, were stopped in their journey to Montmedy, when they attempted to escape from the Thuilleries in the month of June 1791, and conducted back to Paris. It is a town and seat of a tribunal, in the department of the Meuse, 40 miles S. of Mezieres, and 50 W. of Metz.

135. **THIONVILLE** is a strong town in the department of the Moselle, 16 miles N. of Metz, and 195 N.N.E. of Paris. This town formerly belonged to the duchy of Luxembourg. In the years 1558 and 1643 it was taken by the French, and finally ceded to France, by the treaty of the

Pyrenees, in the year 1659. It was once the residence of the kings of Austrasia. In 1792 it was besieged by an Austrian army; the commander was general Felix Wimpfen, who on being summoned to surrender, replied, "You may destroy the fortress, and not leave one stone upon another, but you cannot burn the ramparts." It resisted during the whole campaign, and held in check a force of 28,000 men, which the besieged frequently harassed and distressed in several successful sallies. It was at last relieved by the general retreat of the enemy; and the victorious garrison and commander received all the honours and applause which their valour and perseverance merited. Thionville is advantageously situated on the Moselle, over which it has a bridge defended by horn-work.

136. The city of METZ is the capital of the department of the Moselle, situated at the confluence of the Seille and Moselle, 25 miles N. by W. of Nancy, and 186 E. of Paris. Before the revolution this was a parliament city, and the see of a bishop, who styled himself a prince of the Roman Empire, and had a diocese of 613 parishes, and a revenue of 120,000 livres. It is divided into Old and New Town. The Old Town is large, but the streets are narrow; the houses however, though old fashioned, are handsome. The New Town is likewise large, and of much more beauty than the former. The population is estimated at 40,000, besides the garrison and the Jews. Exclusive of its fortifications, it has three citadels; besides the cathedral, which is one of the finest in Europe, and contained a beautiful porphyry font, made of one piece ten feet long, there were three chapters, sixteen parish churches, six abbeys and a college. Metz has three gates, two to enter into the city, and one to go out of it, which had a curious title, "*La porte d'Enfer.*" There are also a great number of Jews, who have a synagogue in this city. The Meszin, or country round Metz, produces a little wheat, and is of tolerable fertility; it was anciently a part of the kingdom of Austrasia, of which Metz was for a long time the capital, and the usual residence of the king. In the year 1552, Metz, Verdun and Toul, after being for some time under the protection of the emperor, put themselves under the protection of the French; till in 1648, at the peace of Westphalia, they were absolutely transferred to France.

137. To the south of Metz is NANCY, a very important city, the capital of the department of the Meurte, near the

river Meurte, and formerly capital of Lorraine; it is 75 miles W. of Strasburg, and 175 E. of Paris. This was the ancient residence of the dukes of Lorraine. It is situated in a beautiful and fertile plain, contains 34,000 inhabitants, and is divided into Old and New Town by a canal. The first, though irregularly built, is rich and populous, and contains the palace of the ancient dukes of Lorraine; and their tombs are in a rich saloon which adjoins the church of the late Cordeliers. The New Town, whose streets are perfectly straight, was already one of the finest in Europe before the magnificent works with which Stanislaus I. titular king of Poland, and duke of Lorraine, enriched it. Before the revolution it was a bishop's see, and, besides the cathedral, a superb structure, contained three collegiate and three parish churches, 17 convents, an university, an academy of sciences, a medical college, an hospital, and a commandery of Malta. This city was formerly fortified, but, by an article in the treaty of Ryswick, the fortifications of the New Town were destroyed.

138. While in this neighbourhood we may notice the regularly fortified town of TOUL, in the same department, about 12 miles W. of Nancy; it was lately a bishop's see, and the cathedral and episcopal palace are handsome structures; it was formerly imperial, and the bishop was a prince of the empire. Toul is situated on the Moselle, over which it has a stone bridge, in a plain almost surrounded by mountains. The government of Toulis, of which this town was the capital, with the two bishoprics of Metz and Verdun, in 1552, put themselves under the protection of France, and, by the treaty of Westphalia, became a part of that country.

139. LUNEVILLE is another town in this department worthy of notice; it is situated on the Meurthe, near its confluence with the Vesouze, in a marshy country which has been drained, and is 14 miles S.E. of Nancy. In the 6th century it was a county of itself, but in the 12th it was united to Lorraine. Its magnificent castle, where the dukes of Lorraine formerly kept their court, as did afterwards king Stanislaus, is now converted into barracks. The church of the late regular canons is very handsome; and here Stanislaus founded a military school, a large library and an hospital. Luneville is celebrated for the treaty of peace concluded in 1801 between France and Germany.

140. From Lunéville we proceed in a north-easterly direction, through Sarburgh, an inconsiderable town, to WISSENBURG or WEISSEMBURG, a town in the department of the Lower Rhine, situated on the Lauter, at the foot of the Vosges, 30 miles N. of Strasburg. In this town was a princely provostship, united to the bishopric of Spire. It was formerly imperial, and was ceded to France by the peace of Ryswick. The fortifications were destroyed by Louis XIV.; but strong lines of defence are fixed from hence to the Rhine, a little to the E. of Lauterburg, on the S. side of the Lauter. In 1744 the Austrians were driven from these lines; in 1793 they were passed, and the town itself taken, by the Prussians, but soon after regained by the French.

141. STRASBURG is a city and capital of the department of the Lower Rhine, situated at the confluence of the Ille and Brusch, about a mile from the left bank of the Rhine, 250 miles E. of Paris, and 395 W. of Vienna. Before the revolution it was the capital of the circle of the Upper Rhine and of Alsace, the see of a bishop, who was a prince of the empire, the residence of a governor, an intendant, king's lieutenant, &c. The name of Strasburg it received about the sixth century, which signifies the town of the street, because it was situated on the high road from France to Germany. It is very extensive, and is so well strengthened with a citadel, and other fortifications, by Vauban, the outworks of which reach almost to the Rhine, as to be considered one of the strongest places in Europe. The principal structures are built of a red stone dug from the quarries along the Rhine. It has six gates, 200 streets, but mostly very narrow, 4000 houses, of more strength than beauty, and about 60,000 inhabitants. There are eight bridges across the Ille, and one of wood over the Rhine, 3,900 feet in length, which, in the middle, is supported by an island, on which is a strong castle. A canal is made from the Brusch to the Rhine, by means of which the country round may be laid under water to a great extent. The cathedral is a beautiful Gothic structure, the pyramidal steeple of which is a great curiosity, and is 574 feet high, and ascended by 654 steps; it is wrought with a delicacy which strikes the eye with astonishment, because joined to solidity. The clock also of this cathedral is an admirable piece of mechanism, constructed on the plan of Dasypodius, a celebrated mathematician; besides the hours of the day, and days of the week, it describes very correctly the motions of the constellations, the revolutions of the sun and

moon, with their eclipses, &c. Strasburg has an university governed by 20 professors who are Lutherans, and another of Roman Catholics. The military hospital is a handsome building, and the city infirmary will receive 800 patients of both sexes; besides which there are two houses for orphans, a foundling hospital, another for venereal complaints, a lazaretto for epidemical diseases, a house of charity for mendicants, an anatomical hall and cabinet, a botanic garden, a public library, a military school, &c. From its situation Strasburg is a place of considerable commerce; it has also manufactures of tobacco, china, steel, lace, carpets, cloth, leather, &c. The Lutherans have seven churches; in one of which, in 1777, a most beautiful mausoleum of white marble was erected to the memory of the great Marshal Saxe. Strasburg was formerly imperial, but in 1682 it was taken by Louis XIV. and yielded to him by the peace of Ryswick; he, however, granted to the inhabitants all their privileges and immunities; one of which was, that they were to pay nothing to the king, but all the imposts were to be expended in the support of the city. Before its union with France the Lutherans only exercised public employments; after that the Catholics were admitted to a share. The revenues are said to amount annually to a million of livres. The chapter of the cathedral was founded in 1019, to be composed of 24 nobles of the rank of counts.

142. COLMAR is the next place we come to, a city and capital of the department of the Upper Rhine, 28 miles N. of Basle, and 35 S. of Strasburg. It is situated on the two small rivers Fecht and Lauch, surrounded by a wall flanked with towers, and contains about 15,000 inhabitants.

143. Our route next directs us through several small towns, as Altkirk, St. Hypolite, Ornans, Salins and Poligny, to LONS, the first we meet with of sufficient importance for insertion, as the capital of the department of Jura; it is seated on the river Solvan, 50 miles S.S.W. of Besançon, and was formerly celebrated for its salt-works, which are now discontinued, and had a beautiful abbey of noble Bernardines.

144. ST. CLAUDE is a town in the department of Jura, situated, between three high mountains, on the Lison, at the foot of a mountain, 17 miles N.W. of Geneva. From Mont St. Claude there are delightful prospects of Switzerland, &c. Before the revolution it was the see of a bishop, and contained

a rich abbey, which was secularised in the year 1742. The cathedral is extremely elegant; and there are many public fountains with large basins.

145. From St. Claude we continue our route to VIENNE, a city in the department of the Isere, 17 miles S. of Lyons, and 43 N.W. of Grenoble. A Roman colony was established here. In the fifth century it was taken by the Burgundians, and the kings made it their place of residence; in the ninth century it was the capital of the kingdom of Provence; it was afterwards erected into an archbishopric, and became the capital of the province of Viennois, in which state it remained till the revolution. It is very pleasantly situated on the Gere and Rhone, over the latter of which was a stone bridge, built in 1265, but now destroyed. The Gere is a beautiful stream, occasionally very thickly wooded, and passing in a canal which, as seen from the road, has any appearance but that of a level. The smaller rivers in France, like the by-lanes, are infinitely more beautiful than the larger; the water, running over a bed of gravel, is limpid and transparent to a great degree; and the grounds through which it passes, being left in their natural rudeness, have a character of wildness, romance, and picturesque, which is not to be found in the greater navigable streams. The Gere is animated by many flour and paper mills delightfully situated. The road from Lyons to this place is bordered by hedges, in which are flowering shrubs that perfumed the air very delightfully; it is not uncommon to find even orange-trees in the open fields. There are many fields planted with mulberry-trees, which appear to flourish best where nothing else would grow, on stony and gravelly soils; this indeed seems to be the common excellence of the mulberry and the vine, that they may both be cultivated on lands which would otherwise be barren. Vienne is surrounded by hills, and has a tolerable trade in wines, silk and sword-blades. There are some hardware manufactories, where the steel is said to be well tempered, and the sword-blades are in great repute. The cathedral is a handsome Gothic structure. In 1311 a general council was held here, at which Clement V. presided, and in which the suppression of the Knights Templars was determined. The town is of great antiquity, and bears all the appearance of it; the streets are irregular, the houses dark; one room in almost every house is very large, and all the others most inconveniently small. Provisions are in great plenty and very cheap, as is every thing else, with the exception of fuel. Near Vienne, on the banks of



A Snuff Merchant



A Priest

the Rhone, are produced the excellent wines of Cote Rotie and the famous Hermitage wines.

146. At ANNONAY, a town on the opposite side of the Rhone, 12 miles from Vienne, the two brothers, Montgolfiers, paper-makers, made the discovery of air-balloons in 1782. They floated them with rarefied air, obtained by means of a fire suspended beneath them; and balloons of this kind are still called Montgolfiers, in honour of the inventors, and to distinguish them from those that are filled with gas or inflammable air; both kinds have burst, and caused fatal accidents. Annonay is celebrated for its very fine paper manufacture.

147. We now change our course, turning to the north, to reach BOURG EN BRESSE, a city and capital of the department of the Ain, 35 miles N.E. of Lyons, and 233 S.E. of Paris. It was formerly the capital of the province of La Bresse, and is situated on the river Ressouze, in a country rather marshy, but fertile: its principal commerce is in corn, horses, cattle, and white leather. The population is estimated at about 5000. In the neighbourhood is a magnificent church and monastery of the Augustins.

148. MACON is a city and capital of the department of the Saone and Loire, situated on a declivity near the Saone, 35 miles N. of Lyons, and 188 S.E. of Paris. Before the revolution it was the capital of a small country called Maçonnois, which was formerly a county, and the see of a bishop. It contained four churches, a commandery of Malta, seven convents, a college, and an hospital; and has a considerable trade. It is built in the form of a bow, to which the river is the cord, and the bridge the arrow. The wine of this neighbourhood is much esteemed. Maçon has been the scene of some monkish impositions on the credulity of the people; one especially, of the pretended supernatural possession of a nun, to which even the great Robert Boyle was inclined to give some credit. The Benedictines of the very spacious and magnificent abbey of *Cluny*, near Maçon, have dealt more largely in these sorts of miracles than perhaps any other miracle-mongers in the Romish calendar.

149. Taking a north-westerly direction, we continue our route to NEVERS, a city and capital of the department of the Nievre, 30 miles N. of Moulins, and 145 S. by E. of Paris.

It is situated on the Loire, where it is joined by the Nievre, over which is a handsome stone bridge; it was formerly the capital of the Nivernois, and before the revolution was a bishop's see, the seat of an election, a marechaussée, and salt-office. It contained, besides the cathedral, 11 parish churches, and several religious houses. The principal manufactures are, china, glass, and works of enamel. The population is estimated at about 8000. Nevers is a pleasant, though an old-looking town, and very agreeably situated on the declivities of a hill, at the bottom of which flows the Loire. On the summit of the hill is what remains of the ducal palace, in which John Casimir, king of Poland, died in 1672; it has suffered much from time, but enough still remains to bear testimony to its original magnificence. In some of the apartments the tapestry, though nearly three centuries old, still retains in a great degree the brilliancy of its colours; the figures are monstrous, but the general effect is magnificent. The cathedral of Nevers is one of the most ancient in France. About one hundred years since, in digging a vault, a body was discovered enveloped in a long robe; some very old coins were found in the coffin, and the habit in which the body was wrapped was of the most ancient fashion: according to antiquaries, this was the body of one of the ancient dukes of Nevers. Nothing can be more picturesque than the country between Nevers and Moulins. Natural beauty and the life and activity of cultivation unite to render it the most complete succession of landscape in France. Though England has many delightful villages and rustic greens, France is greatly superior in rural scenery.

The climate of this part of France is delightful, the soil wonderfully fertile, the productions of the earth abundant, and the health of the inhabitants corresponds with the excellence of the climate. The most beautiful shrubs, those that in other places are only to be found in hot-houses, are common in the woods and hedges; indeed the departments of the Nievre, Allier, Cher, Indre, and those more to the west, which include the provinces of Nivernois, Bourbonnois, Touraine, &c. have been termed the garden and granary of France. Land, provisions, houses, and all the requisites and comforts of life, are surprisingly cheap; the people, in unison with their delightful country, are cheerful, universally polished in their manners, and naturally gay, benevolent and obliging.

150. From Nevers we turn to the east to AUTUN, a city in the department of the Saone and Loire, celebrated for its

vestiges of Roman magnificence. It is 45 miles from Nevers, is situated near the river Arroux, at the foot of three mountains, from whence issue six springs that well supply the town with water; was formerly the capital of Autunois, and see of a bishop whose diocese extended over upwards of 600 parishes, and, besides the cathedral, contained eight parish churches and several religious houses. The cathedral, college and seminary are worthy of notice. Autun was made a Roman colony by Augustus, and called after him *Augustodunum*, and still contains a great number of Roman antiquities, particularly the temple of Janus and Cybele. It has manufactories of tapestry, thread, carpets, coverlets, and delft ware.

151. Before we go to Dijon let us notice CHALONS SUR SAONE, a city in the department of the Saone and Loire, 38 miles S. of Dijon, and 66 N. of Lyons. Before the revolution this was a bishop's see. It is situated on the Saone, surrounded with walls, and defended by a citadel. Here are various indications of Roman magnificence, particularly the ruins of an amphitheatre. The city contains the Old Town, the New Town, and the suburb of St. Lawrence. In the first is the court of justice and the cathedral. Corn, iron, wine and wool are the chief articles of commerce.

152. DIJON is a large city and capital of the department of the Côte d'Or, 48 miles W. of Besançon, and 148 S. E. of Paris. It was formerly the capital of Burgundy and Dijonnois, a bishop's see, and a parliament city. It is situated in a fertile and charming plain, bounded by a ridge of mountains, the sides of which are covered with vines, of which excellent wine is made. It has four gates, and three fauxbourgs, and is nearly three miles in circumference; the walls are handsome, but the fortifications are old; the castle was built by Louis XI. It also contains seven parishes, four abbeys, eleven convents, a college, an hospital, &c. and 25,000 inhabitants. This is a very important city; the streets are broad, well paved and straight, and the squares and public structures elegant.

153. CHATILLON SUR SEINE is a town in the same department, 38 miles N. N. W. of Dijon. The town is large, though only one parish, and is built on both sides of the Seine; there are some iron works in the neighbourhood.

154. We now turn to the east to LANGRES, a city in the department of the Upper Marne, 35 miles N. N. E. of

Dijon, 20 S. of Chaumont, and 140 S. E. of Paris. This place is very ancient, and, in the time of Julius Cæsar, was the capital of the Lingones. In the irruption of Attila it was taken and burned; and, after being rebuilt, underwent the same fate, in the year 407, from the Vandals. It was very early erected into a bishopric; and, from the reign of Philip Augustus to the revolution, the prelates were dukes and peers of France. It is situated on a mountain, close to the Marne; cutlery is the chief article of trade. The cathedral is a large, gloomy, Gothic building, filled with ancient tombs; besides this there are some other handsome churches, and many religious houses. The walls or ramparts of the city are covered with a roof, under which was the promenade in wet weather; the outer side was invested with a parapet, rising up to the roof, through which the country could be seen by means of small openings or embrasures.

155. In our road to Besançon we notice GRAY, a town in the department of the Upper Saone, 28 miles N. E. of Dijon. It is situated on the Saone, which is navigable for boats to Lyons, whither the inhabitants send grain and iron, the chief articles of their commerce. The fortifications have been destroyed.

156. BESANCON is a fortified city and capital of the department of the Doubs, 86 miles S. W. of Colmar, and 208 S. E. of Paris. Before the revolution this was the capital of Franche Comté, the see of an archbishop, and a parliament city. Besançon is situated in a bottom, between mountains, on the Doubs, whose waters almost surround and divide it into Upper and Lower Town, joined by a handsome bridge; it has six gates, three to the Upper, and three to the Lower town, and is strong both by nature and art, being defended by a wall flanked with eight towers like bastions; the citadel is a long square, built on a sharp rock. Under the Romans it was one of the most magnificent places they had in Gaul, and the triumphal arch of Aurelian and many remains of their superb buildings are yet visible; after the death of Julian it was nearly destroyed by the Germans, and a second time by Attila. It afterwards became an imperial city, till the time of Louis XIV., who in the year 1674 made himself master of it, and united it to France. The university is an ancient and celebrated foundation; and in 1752 a literary and military institution was formed. Besançon contains eight parishes, and about 20,000 inhabitants.

157. We must next notice VESOUL, capital of the department of the Upper Saone, 25 miles N. of Besançon. It

is situated at the foot of a mountain, near the river Durgon; and in its vicinity is a medicinal spring.

158. The next place of note we meet in this direction is **EPINAL**, a city and capital of the department of the Vosges, 35 miles S. E. of Nancy. It is situated on the Moselle, and noted for its paper-mills; it formerly belonged to the duchy of Lorraine, but in the reign of Louis XIV. it was taken by Marshal Crequi, and soon after dismantled.

159. Our route next takes us to **CHAUMONT**, a city and capital of the department of the Upper Marne, 130 miles E. S. E. of Paris. It is situated on a mountain, near the river Marne; and has a manufactory of coarse woollen cloth, and a considerable trade in deer and goat skins.

160. We continue in the same direction through Bar-sur-Aube, a small town, to **TROYES**, a city and capital of the department of the Aube, 85 miles S. E. of Paris. It is situated on the Seine, and before the revolution was the capital of Champagne, and the see of a bishop. Among the objects of curiosity are the cathedral, the public library of the late Cordeliers, and the castle in which the ancient counts of Champagne resided. It contained fourteen churches, four abbeys, ten convents, a college and an hospital, and is surrounded by strong walls. As the stone in the neighbourhood is too tender to be employed in building, almost all the houses are of wood. The inhabitants carry on a considerable trade in linen, flax, hemp, cotton, fustians, chandlery, wine, &c. The environs produce grain, fruit and legumes in abundance. Troyes was captured and recaptured several times by the allied and French armies in 1814.

161. From Troyes we turn to the south, to **AUXERRE**, a city and capital of the department of the Yonne, situated on the side of a hill, near the Yonne, 90 miles S. S. E. of Paris. Before the revolution it was the see of a bishop, and capital of Auxerrois. It was anciently governed by its own counts. The cathedral has nothing remarkable; but the episcopal palace is considered as one of the most beautiful in France. It contains twelve parishes, many fountains and squares, several religious houses, two hospitals, &c. and a population of about 16,000. In the year 1358 it was taken by the English, but in 1360 it was retaken by the French.

162. Before we go to Bourges we shall take in **MONTARGIS**, a town in the department of the Loiret, seated near a fine forest, and connected to the Seine by a navigable canal, 60 miles S. of Paris. It is celebrated for mustard and cutlery, and had formerly a very fine castle. This town was blockaded by the English in 1418, and reduced to great extremity, till relieved by the Bastard of Orleans.

163. **BOURGES** is a city and capital of the department of the Cher, situated in a very open plain, at the conflux of the Auron and Eure, 25 miles W. of Nevers, and 125 S. of Paris. Before the revolution this was the see of an archbishop, and a generality, with an university founded or re-established by Louis XI. the Nero of France, who was born here, and endowed the town with some considerable privileges. The cathedral church is a beautiful piece of Gothic architecture, and of prodigious dimensions, far exceeding any in England; it contains a great quantity of painted glass. The principal manufactures are cloth, woollen stuffs, and stockings, great quantities of which are disposed of at the annual fairs. Bourges contains sixteen parish churches, and above 20,000 inhabitants. It stands nearly in the centre of the kingdom. In extent it is one of the greatest cities in France. Charles VII. usually held his court here, and was denominated by the English "Le petit Roi de Bourges."

164. In the same department, 10 miles N.W. of Bourges, is the ancient town of **MEHUN-SUR-YEURE**, situated on the Yeure, and noted for the magnificent remains of its *castle*. This is rendered famous in history by the death of Charles VII. who constructed it, and who died there in 1461, by a voluntary abstinence from food, caused by the apprehension of being poisoned by his own son, Louis XI. The situation of the castle is not favoured by nature, and corresponds ill with the grandeur of the structure. It stands in a wide extended plain, sheltered by deep woods, and at its foot flows the little river Yeure, which, dividing at the spot into several streams, forms a number of marshy islands, covered with willows. Though the castle of Mehun has been burnt by lightning, as well as greatly injured by time and the depredations of the neighbouring peasants, yet its ruins are even now inexpressibly august and beautiful. The great tower is nearly perfect; and three of the apartments, which appear to have been rooms of state, might almost be inhabited at present. The chamber where they say the unhappy king expired is in one of the smaller towers, the entrance into

which is obstructed by the stones which have fallen from above. The whole edifice is composed of a stone nearly equal to marble in whiteness and durability, and is surrounded by a deep ditch; in the centre stands the chapel, the workmanship and delicacy of which are astonishing. The castle has been deemed, by a very competent judge, to be one of the finest monuments now existing in Europe of the taste and style of architecture in the fifteenth century, when the arts began slowly to revive from their slumber of so many ages.

165. Our route next leads us to MOULINS, a city and capital of the department of the Allier, 30 miles S. of Nevers, and 130 S.S.E. of Paris. Formerly it was the capital of Bourbonnois, and a generality, and is esteemed one of the pleasantest towns in France. It is indeed beautifully situated in the midst of a rising and variegated country, with meadows, corn-fields, hills and woods; to which may be added the river Allier, a stream so recluse and handsome, and so bordered with beautiful grounds, as to give the idea of a park: over this river there is a noble bridge, and a wharf, with immense preparation of warehouses, but no goods, no merchandize of any kind. How unlike a wharf on an English canal! The grounds about the town appear as if laid out for the pleasure of the inhabitants; the meadows and corn-fields are intersected by paths in every direction, and fruit-trees are in great number, and to all appearance are common property. There is here no accumulation of property, no stock of reserve. The people seem to live from hand to mouth on the articles which they find nearest them: it is the same with regard to clothing, and all other articles of common consumption. Society certainly exists here in a much simpler state than in England.

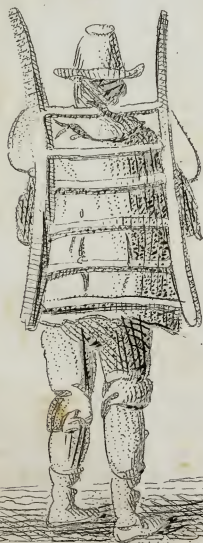
The interior of the town does not merit description; the streets are narrow, the houses dark and built in the worst possible style. The dukes of Bourbon selected this as a place of residence during the season of the chase, and having built a castle in the neighbourhood, their suite and attendants shortly founded a town. This was the usual origin of most of the provincial towns in Europe; they followed the castle or chateau of the baron. Moulins has a very agreeable, gay and picturesque appearance as seen from the meadows in the vicinity; the river and the beautiful scenery around it fully compensate for its disagreeable interior. It contains 16,000 inhabitants, and has manufactories of stone-ware, glass and cutlery, which last is greatly esteemed. Provisions of all sorts are very cheap and plentiful.

166. In our way to Blois we notice only CHATEAUROUX, the capital of the department of the Indre, 148 miles S. S. W. of Paris. It is situated in a fertile country on the Indre, has a large woollen manufacture, and contains four parishes, and about 6000 inhabitants. It derives its name from a very large castle built here by Raoul, whence the city was called Chateau-Raoul, and by corruption Chateau-Roux.

167. BLOIS is a city and capital of the department of the Loir and Cher, 28 miles S. W. of Orleans, 37 N. E. of Tours, and 100 S. W. of Paris. Before the revolution this was a bishop's see, the seat of a lieutenant-general, a grand bailliwick, and capital of the Blaisois; once the abode of the kings of France. Wine and brandy constitute the chief articles of commerce; the principal manufactures are serge and ticken; the population is about 15,000. The situation of Blois is as agreeable as that of all the other principal towns on the Loire; the main part of it is built upon a hill, which descends by a gentle declivity to the Loire; the remaining part is a suburb on the opposite side of the river. From the hill on which the town stands is a beautiful view of a rich and lovely country; and there is certainly not a town in France or in Europe, with the exception of Tours and Toulouse, which can command such a delightful landscape. The town does not correspond with the beauty of its situation; the streets are narrow and the houses low. There are several fountains in different parts of the town, supplied by an aqueduct: the water rises from a deep subterraneous spring, and is conveyed in a channel cut in a rock; this channel is supposed to be of Roman construction, and from its characteristic boldness, and even greatness, it most probably is so. The channel of the aqueduct empties itself into a reservoir adjoining the city walls, whence they are distributed in pipes through all the quarters of the city.

But the boast and ornament of Blois is its *Chateau* or castle. It is built upon a rock which overhangs the Loire, all the castles on this river being built with an evident purpose of controlling and commanding the navigation. There is a variety and dissimilarity in the several parts of this castle in consequence of its being the work of several princes in different ages. The eastern and southern fronts, were built by Louis XII, (who was born here) about the year 1520, and are heavy, dark and Gothic, with small rooms and pointed arches: the northern front was the work of Francis I. and is a curious specimen of the Gothic architecture in its progress, perhaps in

Butter Woman



A Porter



its very act of transit, into the Greek and Roman orders; and the western side, which was built by Gaston duke of Orleans, but not completed, bears the character of the magnificent mind and bold genius of that great prince.

The chamber in which the celebrated duke of Guise was assassinated, and the spot on which he fell, are still pointed out to the traveller. There is a small chamber, or rather antechamber, which leads to a larger apartment; the duke had passed through the door of this antechamber, and was opening the farther door which leads into the larger apartment, when he was assassinated by order of Henry III. His body was immediately dragged into the larger apartment, and the king came to view it. "How great a man was that!" said he, pointing to the lifeless body. The Cardinal of Guise, being seized on the same day in which his brother was murdered, was imprisoned in this castle, and, after passing a night in the dungeons, was executed on the day following. The dungeons are the most horrible holes which it is possible to conceive: two doors of massy iron open into a gloomy vaulted-room, itself a dreadful dungeon, and in the centre of the floor is a round hole of the size and shape of those on the paved foot-paths in London for shooting coals into the cellars, and under it are three ranges of dungeons one beneath the other. The Salle des Etats, so called because the States General were there assembled by Henry III. is a large and lofty room; but the fire-place is what chiefly attracts attention, where the bodies of the Guises were reduced to ashes on the day following their murder. The western front of the castle is in every respect worthy of Gaston, and of the architect employed by him the illustrious Mansard. The duke, in consequence of his not being able to complete his design of this part, exclaimed, as he lay expiring, "*Domus mea, domus desolationis in eternum!*"

168. In a cross-road between this place and Orleans is the magnificent castle of CHAMBORD, than the situation of which nothing can be more obscure and melancholy; it is literally buried in woods, and the building, immense as it is, is not visible till you are within some hundred yards of it. The style of building is strictly Gothic, and the architecture excellent. It was built by Francis I. who is said to have employed 1800 workmen for twelve years, and even then it was left unfinished. It is moated and walled round, and has every appendage of the Gothic castle, innumerable towers, turrets, drawbridges and portals. If seated upon a hill it would be impossible to conceive a finer object. The apartments are large and spacious, but their

effect is destroyed by cross-beams from one side of the room to the other. The great Marshal Saxe lived and died in this chateau; the room in which he breathed his last is still shown with veneration. He lived here in great state, and had a regiment of 1500 horse, whose barracks are in the immediate vicinity of the castle. The spiral staircase is a curious contrivance; it is so managed as to contain two distinct staircases in one, so that people may go up and down at the same time, without seeing each other. The apartments are said to exceed 1200; those which Marshal Saxe occupied are in very good taste, the ceilings are arched, and the proportions are excellent. This castle was the favourite residence of Francis I. and it was here that he so magnificently received and entertained the Emperor Charles V. It has been deserted since the death of Louis XIV. who used occasionally to hunt in its forests, but never made it a permanent residence.

169. Thirty miles S.W. of Blois, and 12 E. of Tours, is the town of AMBOISE, in the department of the Indre and Loire, delightfully situated near the confluence of the Loire and Masset. The town itself is mean and ill built, consisting of two streets and a long stone bridge, but has been rendered famous in history by the conspiracy of the Protestants in 1560, (which opened the fatal wars of religion in France,) and by its castle. Before the revolution the town was very singularly divided into two parishes; all gentlemen, all military officers, all landed proprietors who possessed honorary fiefs, and all strangers who were temporary residents, were considered as belonging to one parish, and the people and the bourgeois were attached to the other. The revolution has annihilated these absurd distinctions, and every one now belongs to the parish in which he resides or has property.

The *castle* is built upon a lofty and craggy rock, and overhangs the Loire which flows at the bottom; the side on the Loire is perpendicular and of great height so as to render it almost inaccessible. This vast structure was not all the work of one time or of one author; the present castle was built upon the ruins of one which was destroyed by the Normans in 882, but having gone into decay was repaired and enlarged by Francis I. and Charles VIII. The latter prince was born and died in this castle, and during the whole of his reign it was the constant summer residence of the court. The most remarkable part of the structure is what is called the oratory of Louis the wicked; it is at a great depth beneath the foundation of the

castle, and the descent to it is by a spiral staircase. It is literally nothing more than a dungeon, on a platform, in which is a prostrate statue representing the dead body of our Lord as taken from the cross, covered with streaks of blood, and the skin in welts as if fresh from the scourge. According to the tradition of the neighbourhood this was the daily scene of the private devotions of Louis XI. and the character of the place, and of the images around, have certainly some symphony with the known disposition of that monarch. No one even in the revolution, has disturbed these relics; it is still exhibited as the tyrant's dungeon, and no one can enter or leave it without feeling a renewed idea of the character of that execrable monster, whom all agree in mentioning with detestation. Only two detached parts of the ancient castle now remain. From the hill behind the castle is seen another of those enchanting landscapes which these parts of France continually exhibit, where the eye is delighted with a profusion of natural beauties, which cannot well be described but must be seen to be enjoyed.

The well-known conspiracy of Amboise having originated in this city, the walls and dungeons of the castle still retain some relics of the ferocious cruelties exercised by the triumphant party of the Guises; spikes, nails and short iron gibbets and chains are still shewn on the walls, on which were suspended the bodies of the prisoners who fell into their hands. Religious fury has no limits, and a true enthusiast comforts himself that he tortures the body to save the soul: the bloodiest and most cruel and destructive wars that were ever waged, were those falsely called religious. Alas, how different is the spirit of war, even the most just and necessary war, from the spirit of Christianity! *Iniquissimam pacem justissimo bello antefero*, said Cicero, and every pious and good man must agree with him.

170. We proceed to ORLEANS, a city and capital of the department of the Loiret, situated on the Loire, 68 miles S.W. of Paris. Before the revolution this was a bishop's see, a parliament city, and the capital of Orleannois. It is now considered as one of the largest and most agreeable cities in France; it has six principal gates, and twenty-two parishes, with a population of about 35,000, whose chief trade is in raw sugar to a great extent, stockings, sheep-skins, brandy, corn and wine. Orleans has a very near resemblance to Tours, though the latter is certainly better built and preferable in situation. Orleans, however, is situated very beautifully; the country is uneven and diversified, and the fields have the air of pleasure-grounds, ex-

cept in the luxuriant wildness of the hedges, and the frequent intermixture of orchard and fruit-trees: as seen from the road, it has an extremely picturesque aspect.

The interior of the town does not at all correspond with the beauty of its situation; some of the streets are narrow, the houses old and scandalously built. The principal street is terminated by a noble bridge, of nine arches, the centre 105 feet wide, which has been repaired from the ruinous state in which it was left by the Chouans. The Grand Place is spacious, and has an air of magnificence. The cathedral is worth peculiar attention: the chapels surrounding the altar are wainscoted with oak, and the pannels are deeply cut into representations of our Saviour on the cross; and the figure of St. John, and others of the apostles, are very masterly: they are the work of Baptiste Tubi, an Italian sculptor who sought refuge in France. The two towers built at the western extremity by Louis XV. are generally known and celebrated; the prospect from their summit exceeds all powers of description; the country seems one boundless garden covered with vineyards, whose richness must be seen to be understood. Orleans was taken by Julius Cæsar: in the year 451, it was besieged by Attila, king of the Huns; and in 1429, by the English: but the siege was raised by the conduct of the Maid of Orleans, whose history is too well known to need detail. There are here several vestiges of her, and her memory is still held in veneration; in the Hotel de Ville is an excellent portrait of her in her warlike dress, and in the main street is a celebrated monument of her and Charles VII. both supposed to be very correct likenesses. In the religious war, Orleans suffered much; in April, 1562, it was surprised by the Prince of Condé, and in February following it was besieged by the Duke of Guise, who had nearly carried his point, when he was assassinated. Several councils have been held here, the first in the reign of Clovis.

171. The next city in our route is CHARTRES, the capital of the department of the Eure and Loire, 45 miles S.W. of Paris. It was formerly a bishop's see, and is very pleasantly situated on the Eure, which divides the town into two parts, and over which is a bridge, the work of the celebrated Vauban; it contains about 10,000 inhabitants. This is one of the most ancient towns in France, and bears evident marks of its antiquity; the streets are in straight lines, and the houses dark and large, but full of small rooms; according to the French historians it was called *Autricum* by the Romans. It is surrounded by a

wall, and has nine gates, of very ancient architecture. The cathedral is esteemed one of the most beautiful churches in the kingdom; it is supposed to have been originally a temple of the Druids, dedicated to the *Virgo Paritura*; though this antiquity may be disputed, the structure is evidently of the most remote ages. According to actual records it was burned by lightning in 1020, and was then rebuilt upon its ancient foundations; it is the most ancient monument in France, and well deserves examination. There is a descent from the upper church into a subterraneous one, extending under the whole space of the one above it, and having corresponding walls, choir, and stalls. There are two high steeples belonging to the cathedral, so well finished, that there is a common saying, "If you wish to have a church complete and perfect in all its parts, you must take the *choir* of Beauvais, the *nave* of Amiens, the *portal* of Rheims, the *towers* of Paris, and the *steeple*s of Chartres." In the parish church of St. André there is a cave or vault well worthy of mention, which contains six coffins, with the bodies in them as fresh as if just dead, though they have been buried nearly a hundred years. One of the men had the mark of a wound under his left breast, as if made by a pointed sword or pike, which was florid, red, and fresh; this was the mayor of the town, who was wounded in an affray of which he died.

172. Turning east from Chartres, we stop at FONTAINE-BLEAU, a town in the department of the Seine and Marne, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the Seine and 10 N. of Melun, celebrated for its magnificent palace, the general autumnal residence of the kings of France. The forest of Fontainebleau contains 26,480 acres, its figure is round, and the town and chateau are in the centre. The town consists of two principal streets and several smaller ones, it has a good trade, being situated on the high road from Paris to Lyons, with a manufacture of thread lace, and a population of about 3000.

Historians have not determined who laid the first foundations of the *Palace*, whether Louis VII. or St. Louis (the IXth); Francis I. built one part of it, as may be seen from the salamanders, the device of this prince; Henry IV. contributed much to its embellishment, as did also Louis XIV. who built a new pile, and rendered the old apartments more magnificent and commodious. There are 1500 rooms in it, and the royal apartments are very large, and richly gilt; in the long gallery, built by Henry IV. called *La Galerie des Cerfs*, are paintings representing all the royal houses and most beautiful palaces in

France, separated from each other by prodigious horns of deer killed in the forest, which abounds in them. It was enriched with many other beautiful paintings, bronze and marble statues, &c. and a grand orangery.

Fontainebleau, says Cardinal Bentivoglio, is a vast palace, worthy of a great prince; and though there are many piles joined to each other at different times, without order or symmetry, forming a confused mass of buildings of different architecture, this confusion has nevertheless an air of surprising majesty and grandeur. It stands in a bottom, and has nothing pleasant when the country and trees are deprived of their verdure, surrounded by a vast forest, in the midst of small hills crowned with rocks, which produce nothing to support life or please the eye. The gardens are neat and very extensive; and, besides the grand fountain, which, from the excellency of the water, gave name to the place, there are a great many others to adorn this charming residence.

173. The only city in France that remains to be noticed, before we arrive at the capital, is MELUN, which is the capital of the department of the Seine and Marne, situated on the Seine, 25 miles S.E. of Paris. Before the revolution it contained one collegiate, and three parish churches, two convents, and two abbeys: it carries on a trade with Paris in corn, meal, wine and cheese. In the year 1419, it was besieged and taken by the English, but ten years after the inhabitants drove them out and submitted to Charles VII.

In the plains of Melun the Bourbon army, consisting of 100,000 men, was drawn up to oppose the progress of Buonaparte after his escape from Elba; and here it was that on the 21st of March, 1815, he appeared in an open carriage, driving down the hill from Fontainebleau with the rapidity of lightning, accompanied only by Bertrand and Drouet, and was received—not with a destructive shower of caunon-balls and bullets—but with the most enthusiastic shouts and acclamations, and by this same army was conducted in triumph to Paris, and seated once more upon an imperial throne!

It may be permitted in this place to make an addition to the historical part of the “General Description of France,” p. 4.—Immediately after the desperate and sanguinary battle of *Waterloo*, on the 18th of June, 1815, Bunoaparte was a second time compelled to abdicate. He endeavoured to make this abdication in favour of his son, whom he proclaimed Napoleon II.; but it was set aside, and Louis XVIII. again entered Paris on the 8th

of July. The return of Louis cannot be supposed to be very acceptable to the French, considering the means by which it was accomplished; and it is a prevalent opinion that his power will expire as soon as the foreign armies, which uphold it, are withdrawn.

In the mean time, Buonaparte, the wonderful Buonaparte, who for so many years has agitated the universe, of whom almost all tongues have talked and pens have wrote, privately retired, no one knew whither; at length, on the 15th of July, he came out from Rochfort in a flag of truce, surrendered himself to Captain Maitland, of the *Bellerophon*, and threw himself upon the British nation for protection. In what a pre-eminently glorious point of view does this circumstance place the British national character!

174. PARIS, one of the noblest cities in the world, the capital of France, is 244 miles S. S. E. of London, 250 S W. of Amsterdam, 625 W. of Vienna, and 630 N. E. of Madrid. In the time of the Romans, before the birth of Christ, in that part called the *Island of the Palace*, was a town called *Lutetia*, or *Lutetia Parisiorum*, or simply *Parisii*, from the *Parisii*, a people of Celtic Gaul, who, when the Romans invaded the country, themselves set fire to it. The conquerors rebuilt it, but it attained to no great eminence till the time of Julian the Apostate, who built a palace in it; it was still farther enlarged by the kings of the Franks, and Clovis made it his residence. About 954 Hugh Capet made it the capital of his kingdom and the place of his residence, in which he was followed by all his successors. Philip Augustus, in the thirteenth century, built a new wall round it, paved the streets and divided it into three parts, the *city*, in the centre; the *ville*, to the north; and the *university*, to the south. In the fifteenth century it was further enlarged and arranged into sixteen quarters, which Louis XIV. in 1702, increased to twenty. It is situated in an extensive plain, on the river Seine, and, including the suburbs, occupies a space of fifteen miles in circumference, and has about 900 streets. Before the revolution it was the see of an archbishop, and contained 51 parish churches, 20 not parochial; 17 collegiate churches, among which were 13 chapters; 40 chapels, 3 abbeys, 22 priories, and 50 convents for men, ecclesiastical and secular; 7 abbeys, 6 priories, and 53 convents, for women; 10 seminaries, 16 hospitals, an university, 6 academies of science, 3 academies for the instruction of young gentlemen, 7 public libraries; 124 companies of artisans and trades-

men; 4 royal palaces, upwards of 500 palaces or houses inhabited by the nobility, &c.; 16 principal squares, and more than 60 inferior; 50 public markets, 60 fountains, 12 bridges, 26 quays, 16 gates, &c. with a population of about 800,000. The city is surrounded by the Seine.

As the narrow limits to which we are confined preclude the possibility of giving a description of this wonderful city, we must be content with a brief sketch of some of its most interesting objects.—The cathedral of *Notre Dame*, a Gothic structure, is one of the largest in Europe, and contains 45 chapels; there are also many other fine churches. The *Pont-Neuf*, the most celebrated of the ancient bridges, crosses the two branches of the Seine, is 1020 feet long and 72 broad, and has 12 arches; it was begun in the reign of Henry III. and finished by Henry IV. In the centre was an equestrian statue of Henry IV. in bronze, of a colossal size, on a pedestal of white marble, with a description of some of his principal actions. The *Bridge of Austerlitz*, built by Buonaparte in commemoration of his victories, communicates from the Boulevard Bourdon to the Jardin des Plantes; the views of the river from each side are very fine, and the bridge itself is exceedingly handsome, being composed entirely of iron, except the piers and butments; the surface is quite flat, and a light simple railing on each side gives a neat and pretty finish; the arches are so light, and the bolts so well fitted, that it looks as if it were scarcely strong enough to support the passengers.

The grand palace, called the *Louvre*, was begun in the reign of Francis I., the front was built by Louis XIV.; it is a quadrangular edifice, the court in the centre, forming a square of 390 feet. The front is one of the most beautiful monuments of the reign of Louis XIV. The gallery is considered as the finest piece of architecture in the world. The gallery of paintings is said to be more than half a mile long; it is well lighted, supported by elegant pillars at the sides, which divide the different schools, and ornamented with looking-glasses between the pillars; the roof is beautifully painted; it contains more than 1300 invaluable productions of the French, German, Dutch, Flemish, and Italian masters. This unique collection is one of the most brilliant trophies of Napoleon's victories. In this palace were models of upwards of 180 fortresses in France and other countries, all performed with the utmost accuracy, and so natural as to represent the several cities therein described, with their streets, houses, squares, and churches, and likewise all their works, moats, bridges, and rivers, together with the

adjacent country, such as consisting of plains, mountains, corn-lands, meadows, gardens and woods. When any alterations are made in the fortresses, the same are scrupulously observed in the models. They are now removed to the "Observatoire des Arts et des Metiers." In this palace also are five royal academies.

The *Palais Royal* was built by Cardinal Richlieu, and given by him to Louis XIII.; after whom Louis XIV. resided in it, who gave it to the duke of Orleans, whose son furnished it most nobly, and placed pictures in it, many of them the works of Raphael, Rubens, Titian, Vandyke, &c. to the value of four millions of livres; it contains one of the academies; most of the apartments are hung with red damask. During the revolution it was given by the duke of Orleans to the public, who made its gardens a lounge of the first order. The Palais is a square, with a wide handsome colonnade, under which are the smartest shops in Paris, and an innumerable number of restaurateurs; it is always crowded with people.

The *Palais des Thuilleries*, so called from a tile-kiln formerly here, is grand, chaste and elegant, and communicates, by means of a grand gallery 1362 feet long and 30 broad, with the Louvre; it was begun by Catharine de Medicis, and completed by Henry IV. It consists of five pavilions and four corps de logis, standing all in a direct line, above 1068 feet in length, and making a very grand appearance. In the pavilion adjoining the river is a magnificent theatre; in another is a grand hall, round the top of which is a fine gallery, where there are several figures in armour placed to represent living guards; the hall is filled with pictures of Buonaparte's marshals. The rooms, as you advance, are still handsomer, ornamented with tapestry worked in gold, and every luxury which the vanity of man's ambition can invent; all the ornaments consist of bees, the eagle, or the letter N, to which Buonaparte was particularly partial. There is a very large statue of silver, of prodigious weight, given to Napoleon by the city of Paris. The garden of the Thuilleries, in front of the palace and on the banks of the Seine, is the finest public walk in Paris. The palace of the "Corps Legislatif," the French parliament, is very handsome, and has an excellent library attached to it; in the emperor's apartment there are fine pictures of Marie Louise, painted when she first entered Paris, and Buonaparte; with the former of which the emperor of Austria, when he came to see it, was very much affected. The room of sitting is one fourth of a sphere, with eight rows of seats to hold 500 deputies, and galleries to accommodate 300 spec-

tators. The president's seat is in a recess opposite the centre, and raised to the level of the middle seats. Three secretaries are seated on each side of the president; something lower, and before him, on a level with the secretaries, is the tribune, from which the deputies read their speeches. The president is distinguished by a white sash; and the members, with their gold collars and cuffs, have more the look of livery servants than of the representatives of a free people. The Salle de Pairs, or house of lords, is also a section of a sphere; it is a splendid room, but the echo is so great, that they are obliged to disfigure it by curtains during the sittings. It contains seats for 158 senators, but no galleries. Near the throne are twelve statues of Greek and Roman worthies. The approach is very noble; a staircase of white marble, which occupies the whole of a long gallery, ornamented by statues of men famous in modern France; among them is Vergniaux as haranguing the national assembly, and Condorcet in an attitude of thought.—The *Luxembourg* palace, a magnificent structure, celebrated for its gallery of exquisite paintings by Rubens, has long been used as a state-prison.

The *Pantheon*, formerly the church of St. Genevieve, was built by Louis XV., is of the Corinthian order, and the architecture of the dome most beautiful; it is a most noble edifice, composed entirely of stone without any mixture of timber; the national assembly appointed it as a receptacle for the bodies of the princes, grand dignitaries, the officers of the empire, of the crown, of the legion of honour, cardinals, senators and ministers. The place appointed for the dead is the crypt, which is perfectly airy and clean; the tombs of Rousseau and Voltaire are placed at the entrance with simple inscriptions. There is also a library belonging to the Pantheon. In the *Place de Caroussel* Buonaparte built a magnificent triumphal arch, and placed on it those four beautiful bronze horses, so celebrated all over the world as having been in the possession successively of Corinth, Rome, Constantinople, Venice, Berlin, and now of Paris. The finest square was that of Louis Quinze, in which the unfortunate Louis XVI., Marie Antoinette and the princess Elizabeth were executed.

The *Boulevards* are one of the greatest ornaments of the city; they are the old Pomærium of Paris, whose walls are now nearly level with the ground, and by their ruins have formed on the inner side a terrace on which half-a-dozen carriages may drive abreast. On each side of this road are double rows of very fine trees, through which runs a broad path for foot-passengers: so that the whole of Paris, on both sides of the river, is surrounded by a most delightful avenue, which for utility and beauty is not

to be matched by any city in the world. The Boulevards are much frequented. The gardens of *Tivoli*, the Vauxhall of Paris, are laid out with great taste, and are well illuminated. There is a good orchestra, and several bands of music constantly playing in different parts of the gardens, and the fire-works are much superior to those at Vauxhall; there is great variety in the amusements here, which causes Tivoli to be much frequented.

But it is the literary institutions of Paris that deserve the greatest consideration. Every capital has its theatres, public gardens, and palaces, but Paris alone has its public libraries on a scale of equal utility and magnificence; in Paris alone the poorest student, the most ragged philosopher, has all the treasure of princes at his command; the *National Library* opens, at his call, and the most expensive books are delivered for his use. It is a noble building and of great extent, containing nearly half a million volumes, besides 80,000 manuscripts in the Greek, Latin, French, Oriental and other languages. On entering there is a superb staircase which leads to the library on the first floor. It consists of a suite of spacious and magnificent apartments extending round three sides of a quadrangle; each division has an attending librarian, of whom any one may require the book he wishes, which is immediately delivered to him; there are tables and chairs in abundance. The librarians being themselves gentlemen, there is no apprehension that they will require any pecuniary remuneration, and there is a strict order that no money be given to any of the inferior attendants. The most complete department of the library is that of the manuscripts; amongst them are many letters and treatises by the ancient kings of France. Three copies of every book published in France must be given to this library; one to be kept, the others to pay for binding it. The cabinet of antiques is stated to be very rich; it chiefly consists of vases, busts, and articles of domestic use among the Romans; the cameos are exquisite; the largest in the collection, and indeed in the whole world, is the *Apotheosis of Augustus*. The collection in the cabinet of engravings is as numerous as it is magnificent. The portefeuilles containing the prints are divided into twelve classes; one containing the French fashions from Clovis to Louis XVI.; another the costume of every nation in the world; a third portraits of eminent persons of all ages and nations; &c. France is the only kingdom in the world that possesses a treasure like this, and knows how to estimate it at its proper value.

The university was founded by Charles the Fat, and consists of four faculties; divinity, civil and canon law, physic, and the

sciences. The finest college in Paris is that of the Four Nations, or Mazarine.

The *Jardin des Plantes* was begun by Gui dela Brosse, physician to Louis XIII., who engaged this prince to establish it, in 1636, for the cultivation of useful plants in medicine. Fagon, Chirac, Duffay and Buffon became successively the superintendants, and under the last great man it was wonderfully aggrandized. There was formerly here a piece of ordnance, with a lens or burning-glass placed over the touch-hole, so regulated and adapted to concentrate the rays of the sun at twelve o'clock every day, as to ignite the powder and discharge the cannon. On the right is a close wood, on the left the botanical school and the green-houses, in the middle an immense nursery of plants. Every plant from every quarter of the globe is here cultivated; those that will not exist in the open air are reared in hot-houses or conservatories. In the botanical school you see the vegetable world in its other stages; first the seed, wood, &c. preserved; and then, in cabinets, every plant dried and carefully placed between folded paper. The bread-fruit is here shown as it is gathered, when sliced, and the preparation for drying it in cakes. Also poison in its liquid and solid states, as collected by the Indians from the poison-tree. The gentleman who presented it to the Museum made an experiment upon a rabbit which was in one corner of the room in high health; he put the point of a fine needle into this poison, and then slightly pricked the rabbit, which bounded from them, but before it reached the opposite extremity of the chamber, not more than 20 feet, it dropped lifeless without even a convulsion. There is here thread taken from between the bark and trunk of some trees, of which lace is made, very curious and beautiful. There was on the cieling the leaf of a cocoa-tree 17 feet in breadth. There are astonishing remains of the old world in the galleries appropriated for this branch of natural history. All sorts of animals you find inlaid in the solid stone, which has been dug up from enormous depths, and some unknown in the regions whence they were excavated. But the most interesting and beautiful of the whole institution is the animal branch of it. Every animal is first shown alive; those that are least vicious have separate paddocks, with verdure and trees, and a house built in the centre, for their accommodation; others are secured in light airy cages. A beautiful aviary finishes the living part of this branch. Then in the Museum every animal in the known world is stuffed exactly to resemble life. Birds, butterflies, insects, fishes, &c. with the most vivid variety of colours, stuffed and dried, form a wonderful collection. In the anatomical school

every animal is dissected, all the intestines preserved in spirits, and what cannot be preserved imitated in wax in the greatest perfection. The *Gobelins*, the *Hotel des Invalides*, &c. &c. we can only mention as objects of curiosity and beauty, without describing them. By an ordonnance of Louis XVIII. dated July 9, 1815, all the squares, bridges, public edifices, &c. in Paris are immediately to resume their ancient names, that is, those they bore on the 1st of January, 1790.

St. Cloud, 12 miles W. of Paris, is a magnificent palace, with gardens, fountains, &c. which was the favourite residence of Buonaparte; and nature and art seem to have been exhausted to render this spot delightful. The views from it are very beautiful, and the gardens more natural, more in the English style, than those of any of the numerous palaces near Paris. The Seine flows through them, and the *jets d'eau* are of a surprising height; but the cascades are far more astonishing, and for these *St. Cloud* is particularly celebrated. The orangery, though not so extensive as that at Versailles, is infinitely finer, and is considered the most beautiful in France; it is fitted up with handsome glass chandeliers, which in the evening must have a very fine effect. The park also is very extensive. The interior of *St. Cloud* corresponds with its exterior in beauty. The decorations and furniture are more magnificent than those of any good dozen of sultans' palaces put together; they are beyond imagination luxurious. Here is the king of Rome's little carriage, a splendid bauble, which used to be drawn by four *sheep*; also some very beautiful embroidery worked by Marie Louise, her work-frame, and her piano forte; they say she was a very good musician. From several of the apartments there is a complete bird's-eye view of the Seine and the country beyond it, terminated by a most pleasing and finished prospect of the city of Paris, with the hill of Montmartre covered with windmills, and the romantic quarries of Belle-ville behind it. The gallery is 185 feet long and 25 wide. The chapel is small, the theatre also is small, but neatly fitted up. The library is not very extensive; some maps lying open, and books with marks and notes in them, were lately seen there, just as Napoleon had left them. Buonaparte constantly slept in his clothes and boots, with his sword by his side; but the report of his violence, breaking chairs, tables, &c. is most positively contradicted. The palace was built by the duke of Orleans, brother of Louis XIV.

The *Palace of Versailles*, in the midst of a forest 30 mile in circuit, is 12 miles S.W. of Paris, was built by Louis XIV., and was the usual residence of the kings of France, till the un-

fortunate Louis XVI. and his family were removed from it to the Thuilleries. It now exhibits a sad wreck, a skeleton of its former grandeur. This was the favourite residence of Marie Antoinette, and was fitted up in a magnificent style: now no furniture remains. The whole of the interior is composed of marble, gilding, and mirrors, except the cielings, which are beautifully painted. The balcony is pointed out where the king, queen and dauphin appeared, when the mob of Paris came in a body of 20,000 and insisted on his return to the capital; the mark of a bullet is also shown on the wall, which had killed the first guard who resisted their entrance, and the apartments through which the unfortunate queen saved herself from assassination. It is singular to observe what pains they took to deface every emblem of the Bourbons; even the fleurs de lis on the locks of the doors were taken off, and the bonnet rouge placed in their stead. The "Salle de l'Opera" was remarkably beautiful. The chapel is very fine, supported by 16 Corinthian columns, and is celebrated for its architecture and ornaments. The grand gallery is as curious a piece of workmanship of that kind as any in the world; Le Brun was both its architect and painter; its length is seven times the width. The painting is still good, and the gilding only requires a little soap and water to render it as perfect as ever. In this gallery there are seventeen immense windows, and on the opposite side mirrors of a corresponding size; it is ornamented with very splendid marble pillars and pilasters. The gardens are finer than any in France, and with the park are five miles in circumference; they are surrounded by walls, and were filled with a vast number of statues, canals, fountains, &c. and the water-works were perhaps the most celebrated in the world. The new palace is built on an artificial terrace; under it is the orangery, the descent to which is by a grand flight of 103 steps; it is of amazing extent. There is a small, but well-arranged library, containing some curiosities.

Trianon, about half-a-mile from Versailles, is a lovely little spot, and has been splendidly furnished by Buonaparte. It consists only of a ground floor, and the *tout ensemble* is light, airy, cheerful and elegant; most of the rooms are fitted up with Beauvais tapestry; and in the gallery, which is very handsome, is a great number of very fine and perfect models of different-sized ships, and some good paintings. In all the palaces of Buonaparte, as well as this, there is a large billiard-table, in which game Marie Louise took great delight.

To conclude—as if just leaving Paris and going to Orleans, let us take a peep, *en passant*, at the *Catacombs*. They are formed by an inclosure, separated from the vast quarries which undermine Paris, and are carefully shut; the entrance is by a deep stair-case; they are of immense extent and great depth under ground, and every one that visits them carries a flambeau. In 1786 the bones found in the cemetery of the Innocents, and those in other religious houses that were suppressed, were brought hither, when the place was consecrated. At that time the bones were merely thrown down through an aperture, without any care; but, in 1811, the arrangement of them was undertaken by M. Hericart de Thury.

You now pass through long galleries and rooms in great numbers, ornamented in a most singular way by bones; in many of them are altars erected; some consist of cross-bones and skulls piled together. They are formed into walls, some 16 feet deep and 10 high, arranged most curiously in rows of bones, laid as neatly as Mosaic, with rows of skulls between. Bodies in number equal to four times the population of Paris are here deposited. As they decay, they are closed up in vaults with monuments; and the place is kept very clean.

Upon the whole, Paris, though a noble city, is far inferior to London in many respects. London is nearly twice as large as Paris; the population of London, and its environs, is 1,200,000, that of Paris 800,000: though the palaces and public buildings are particularly noble, and are seen to advantage from having an abundance of ground round them; though the museums, libraries, &c. are unrivalled, and the boulevards and quays most charming; yet in riches, commerce, charitable institutions, noble streets and squares, it cannot vie with London; and the river Seine is a pond compared with the Thames. Though very gay and polite, the Parisians are very insincere, and abominably filthy; and indeed throughout all France they do not seem to understand the meaning of the words, cleanliness and comfort.

STATE OF SOCIETY, MANNERS, CUSTOMS, DRESS, &c. &c.

HAVING now concluded this imperfect Topographical Sketch of France, I proceed to notice a few particulars which could not, with propriety, be introduced elsewhere.

A very lively modern author gives nearly the following account of a French CHATEAU, a gentleman's seat or mansion, with the manners of its inhabitants and the usual mode of living in it:

In the ordinary construction of a French chateau there is a greater consumption of wood than brick, and no sparing of ground; it is usually a rambling building, with a body, wings, and again wings upon those wings, and flanked on each side with a pigeon-house, stables, and barns; the pigeon-house being on the right, and both the others on the left. The decorations are very contemptible; the windows numerous, but even in the best chateaux there is strange neglect as to broken glass, it being frequently left as broken, but more frequently patched with paper, coloured silk, or even stuffed with linen; the upper tier of windows, even in the front of the house, is usually ornamented with the clothes of the family hanging out to dry.

The pleasure grounds attached to the chateau very exactly correspond with its style; the chateau itself is usually built in the worst site of the whole estate, in some meadow or lawn, and precisely in that part of it which is the natural drain of the whole, and where, if there were no house, there would necessarily be a horse-pond. A grand avenue, planted on each side with noble trees, leads up to the house; but it is usually so overgrown with moss and weeds, as to convey a most uncomfortable feeling of cold, dampness and desolation. The grass of the lawn is equally foul, and all the dirt and rubbish is collected under the windows in front. The gardens behind are in the same neglected state; gravel-walks over-run with moss and weeds; flower-beds ornamented with statues of leaden Floras, painted Mercuries, and Dianes with milk-pails. Every yard almost salutes you with some similar absurdity. The hedges are shaped into peacocks, and not unfrequently into ladies and gentlemen

dancing a minuet. Pillars of cypress and pyramids of yew terminate almost every walk; and if there is a hollow in the garden, it is formed into a muddy pond, into which half-a-dozen nymphs in stone are about to plunge. The ill taste of these statues is not the worst; they are grossly indecent. Indeed there is no such thing as decency, as it is understood in other kingdoms, to be found in France.

A family no sooner comes to its chateau for the summer (for, since the revolution, this has become the fashion), than preparation is immediately made for parties of visitors. Every day brings some one, who is never suffered to go as long as he can be detained. Every chateau thus becomes a pleasant assemblage; and in riding, walking, and fishing, nothing can pass more agreeably than a French summer in the country. The mode of living in these country residences differs very little from what is common in the same rank of life in England. The breakfast consists of tea, coffee, fruits, and cold meat; the usual dinner hour is two o'clock, it is served up as in England; the French, however, have not as yet imitated the English in sitting at table to drink after their dinners: coffee, in a saloon or pavilion, fronting the garden or lawn, immediately follows the dinner. The company then divide into parties and walk, and return about eight o'clock to tea; after tea they dance till supper. At supper all is gaiety and gallantry; the champaigne then goes round, and the ladies drink as much as the gentlemen, that is to say, enough to exhilarate, not to overwhelm, the animal spirits. A Frenchwoman with three or four glasses of wine in her head would certainly make an English one stare; French wit, French vivacity and French gallantry are then seen in perfection. There is certainly nothing in England equal to the French supper.

In cities also strangers are seldom invited to dinner, the supper is the grand meal of the day, and is truly elegant: always fish, and sometimes soup, roasted poultry, and, in season, game; peas, cauliflowers and asparagus almost all the year round. It is usually served in a saloon; but the company make no hesitation, in the intervals of conversation and eating, to visit every room in the house. Accordingly all the rooms are prepared and lighted for this purpose; the beds are thrust into cupboards and corners, and the whole house rendered a splendid promenade, most brilliantly lighted with glass chandeliers and lustres. This blaze of light is further increased by reflection from the large glasses and mirrors which are found in every room. In England the glasses are generally very pitiful; in France, even

in the inns, they reach in one undivided plate from the top of the room to the bottom.

The French furniture also is infinitely more magnificent than the English; curtains, chair-covers, &c. are all of silk, and the chairs fashioned according to the designs of the artists. In a word, a party in France is a *spectacle*, displaying much art and some taste in the arrangement. There is usually a ribbon which divides the room lengthwise, one side of it being for the dancers, the other for loungers, card-tables, &c.; the ribbon is supported, at proper distances, by white staves, similar to those of the court ushers. There is no precedency in a French assembly except amongst the military; this is managed with much delicacy; every group is thrown as much as possible into a circle; the tables are all circular; and, in dancing, cotillons are chiefly preferred from having this quality:

A few words on the DRESSES of the upper ranks in different parts of France may suitably follow these remarks. At a rural assembly in the north of France, the ladies were more exposed about the necks, and their hair was drest with more fancy, than in London; the most elegant novelty was a hat, which doubled up like a fan, so that the ladies carried it in their hands. There were more coloured than white muslins, which had a very pretty effect amongst the trees and flowers. The gentlemen's dresses were made as in England; but the pattern of the cloth, or some appendage to it, was different; one gentleman was habited in a grass-coloured silk coat. There were some fancy dresses; a Diana, a wood nymph, a Calypso, &c. On the whole, there was certainly more fancy, more taste, more elegance, than in an English party of the same description, though not so much beauty.

At a Parisian assembly the greater part of the ladies were dressed in fancy habits from the antique; as sphinxes, vestals, Dianas, Minervas, Junos, and Cleopatras. One gentleman, with the exception of his linen, was dressed completely in purple silk or satin; and another in a rose-coloured silk coat, with white satin waistcoat and small-clothes, and white silk stockings.

The dress of the ladies at a theatre in Paris is described by a tourist of still more modern times, herself a lady.—The Parisian evening costume is a gown certainly, but of such a comical form that it appears rather as if thrown on by mistake than made for the wearer. Their waists are frightfully short; and the back of the gown, crossed like a half-handkerchief, leaves by far too much exposed; their petticoats are very short, with five or six flounces of blond, which, added to the fulness of the dress, make them

look as if they wore hoops; their hair, *à la Grecque*, as they call it, is drawn tight to the top of the head, and then plaited, and a large comb, ornamented with pearls or coral, is placed over the whole front of the hair, which is generally flat on the forehead, excepting one ringlet on each side of the face. Their walking costume is still more absurd, as their bonnets are of an uncommon height, surmounted by an immense bunch of artificial flowers or feathers, so as when they walk to cause an expectation of their being overbalanced, and a fall the consequence, particularly as they do not walk in the decided John-Bull manner, but seem to tremble with sentiment every step they take.

The fashions of the capital improve as they travel downwards into the provinces; they lose their excess, and become more modest, simple and elegant. The Avignonese ladies follow the Paris fashions, but have too much natural elegance to adopt them in extremes. On the evening parade they were habited in silk robes, which in their form resembled collegiate gowns, and, being of the gayest colours, gave the public walk a resemblance to a flower-garden; lace caps were the only covering of their heads; the necks were not so exposed as at Paris, but were open, as is usual in the English full dress; the gown was likewise silk, embroidered in silver, gold, or worked flowers; the shoes of velvet, with silver or gold clasps; the arms were naked almost up to the shoulders. There is a pretty custom at the balls about the centre of France: if a lady accepts a partner, she presents him in summer with a flower, in winter with a ribbon of the colour she has adopted as her own; for every unmarried lady adopts a colour, which she always wears on some part of her dress.

There is a great difference between the French merchant, manufacturer, tradesman, &c. and the English. In most English towns there are men of this class of great wealth and respectability; it is not so in France. The French towns being comparatively poor, and their trade comparatively insignificant, the French tradesmen can seldom do more than obtain a scanty subsistence by their business, and have more the air of chandlers than of great dealers. In some of the principal manufacturing towns there may be one or two principal men and respectable houses, but they are not sufficiently numerous to give dignity or consequence to the class. The French accordingly have a contemptible idea of the term merchant, and foreigners under this designation are specifically excluded from admission at court.

The agriculturists, after the revolution, generally became proprietors; this class of society, a comparatively more numerous one in France than in England, has been gradually improving since that period, before which very few of them were proprietors of the estates they cultivated. Among the gentry, also, and those who possess large domains, a spirit of agricultural improvement seems to have gone abroad which promises to be very beneficial in its effects to the country. Modern travellers, however, all agree that the husbandry and rural economy of France are still very inferior to the English; but in the culture and management of the vine they are allowed to excel all nations. The late occurrences and present disastrous state of the country cannot be very beneficial to agricultural pursuits or improvements. The march of so many thousands of armed men, justly compared to a flight of locusts eating up and destroying every thing in their course, must have left dreadful marks of devastation behind them; and France, twice conquered in so short a space of time, must certainly feel the effects of its heavy visitation.

The COTTAGES in the neighbourhood of Calais generally had a walnut or chesnut tree before them, around which was a rustic seat overshadowed by its broad branches and luxuriant foliage, and under which the partially worn sod pointed out the scene of the nightly dance of the peasants after the labour of the day. The cottages in general have a small garden, and about 100 yards of common land between the road and the house, on which grows the indispensable walnut or chesnut tree; the windows are glazed, but the glass is usually taken out in summer; the walls are sea-stone, but clothed with grape-vines or othes shrubs, which, curling round the casements, render them shady and picturesque. Near Ancennis, on the Loire, the cottages consist of one floor, divided into two rooms, and a shed behind; they are generally situated in orchards, and front the Loire, and invariably have one or two large trees, which are decorated with ribbons at sun-set, as the signal for the dance.

The peasantry near Angers, the Vignerons, as they are called, live in the midst of their vineyards; their habitations are usually excavated out of the rocks and small hillocks on which they grow their vines, and as these hillocks are usually composed of strata of chalk, the cottages are dry and comfortable; some of them being covered, even over their doors, by the vine branches, have the appearance of so many nests, and as many as have two stories are extremely picturesque. Still farther in the south of France, towards Lyons, the cottages for the most part are square,



Musician



Tobacco Merchant

Fruit Woman



Waterman



white, and with flat roofs; glass very seldom in the windows; the climate generally is so dry and delightful, that glass perhaps would rather be an annoyance than comfort.

All modern accounts agree in representing the state of the PEASANTRY as amazingly improved since the revolution; with their sweetly rural cottages, delightful climate, "vine-covered hills," abundance of excellent fruit, vegetables, poultry, mutton, bread, and wine; with a continual flow of spirits, cheerfulness, and gaiety, singing at their labour and dancing when their labour is done, they represent them as the happiest of mortals,

"Whose careless hours glide smooth along,

"Who charm *misfortune* with a song."

There are very few really poor people in France; the national domains, consisting of the confiscated estates of the church and the emigrant nobility, were exposed to sale during the pecuniary distresses of the revolutionary government in small portions, for the accommodation of the lowest order of purchasers, and five years allowed for completing the payment. This indulgence, joined to the depreciation of assignats, enabled the poorest description of peasants to become proprietors; and such they are almost universally, possessing from one to ten acres. As the education of the poor was also sedulously promoted during the early part of the revolution, they have greatly advanced in character as well as reputation. There is a sort of independence, an uprightness of manner, denoting equality and the consciousness of it, which, according to the common report of the French character, would not be expected. This is sometimes, in the lower class, accompanied by something like American roughness, and is not altogether agreeable to our habits. In general, however, they are extremely attentive to good manners in their intercourse with each other and with their superiors; but you may look in vain for that deference, bordering on servility, which is observable in English dependents.

There is something very striking to the traveller who passes rapidly through France in the COSTUMES of the peasantry, which, in different districts, are so distinctly marked, and even contrasted, that they seem to belong to different nations. Here you see round hats measuring two feet across, with very shallow crowns; the hair long and lank: there immense cocked hats, and the hair *en queue*. Red caps, like jelly-bags, hanging down their backs, on one side of the Pyrenees; purple ones on the other. The head-dress of the women varies as much; there is the Norman cap, with wings of snowy white, and the black hood

of the south; the bonnets differing from each other as much as the hats of the men in shape and size; some very large, covering their shoulders, and with high crowns, the brim turned up behind; some broad and flat, with crowns an inch deep; and some fitting the head without any brim at all. The common people about Bayonne, called "Basques," have a dress peculiar to themselves; the women comb up their hair on the crown of their heads, and cover it with a sort of cap exactly resembling a little turban, which has no inelegant effect. In the neighbourhood of Prades the women wear long hoods, the men red caps, crimson sashes and sandals; they are almost Spaniards in language as well as dress. In the mountainous district of Clermont both sexes hobble about among the rocks in wretched *sabots*, or wooden shoes, with high heels; they acknowledge they are bad things to walk in, but they are cheap. The women wear straw bonnets, some small, others very large and grotesque in shape, and brass plates like fillets round their heads. Tails and immense round hats two feet in diameter are worn both by men and boys; some of the latter, not above four years old, have a tail a foot long. This is the only district in which the long lank locks and gaunt figures of the men give them a famished appearance.

Travellers in every part of France, in the course of their inquiries on every topic, meet with no instances of incivility, no reserve or appearance of suspicion. The French of all classes are unwearied in their acts of kindness; they offer their minor services with sincerity, and you cannot oblige them more than by accepting them, nor disappoint them more than by declining them. They have nothing of the English surliness; it would be considered as the most savage brutality to hesitate in, and more particularly to refuse with rudeness, any possible satisfaction to a stranger. To be a stranger is to be a visitor, and to be a visitor is to have a claim to the warmest reception, hospitality and attention.

In every part of France the women employ themselves in offices which are deemed with us unsuitable to the sex. Here there is no sexual distinction of employment; the women of all classes undertake any task they are able to perform, without much notion of fitness or unfitness, in all the departments of manufacture, mechanism and agriculture. In the corn-hall at Paris, women, in their little counting-houses, are performing the office of factors, in the sale of grain and flour, and from one extremity of the country to the other they occupy an important station. The great number of women seen in the fields

engaged in husbandry, and in all the duties of active life, gives a passing traveller an idea of a deficiency of the male population; which, however, is not correct.

The common mode of TRAVELLING in France is but indifferent, though the roads are in general excellent; nothing indeed is wanting to quick travelling in France but English drivers and English carriages. The French postillions, and even the French horses, have a kind of activity without progress; the postillions are very active in cracking their whips over their heads, and the horses shuffle about without mending their pace. The postillions never hesitate to get off their horses, suffer them to go forwards, and follow them very leisurely behind; so that, sometimes, on descending a hill, the traces get entangled about the horses' feet, to the imminent danger of the passengers. Posting unites the worst parts of English and French travelling; English expense and French accommodation. However, if you take your own *voiture*, or hire one for the journey, you escape the miserable *cabriolets* provided by the post-masters, and the trouble of changing every seven or ten miles; in this way also the journey may be performed more economically.

The *diligence* is a most unwieldy machine; it is an extremely large and heavy coach body, on two wheels, carrying eight persons within and three without, and performs the functions of coach and waggon, but neither well; they travel too slowly for the passengers and too rapidly for the goods, which, unless securely packed, suffer very much by the jumbling; the descent of the hills with this weight on the axle-tree is a tremendous operation; they are, however, conducted with great regularity, run about three miles an hour, and are strangely termed *velociferes*.

The French INNS are not at all inferior to the English in provisions, though greatly inferior to them in accommodation, comfort, convenience, and minor appendages. They abound in good eating and drinking, poultry, eggs, excellent wine and fruit in great variety, and all at a very moderate rate; but as to cleanliness of the rooms, sheets or table-cloths, chairs, tables, and attendants, they are miserably deficient. The bed-room is often the dining-room, the walls merely white-washed, no curtains; neither soap, water or towel, to cleanse in the morning, a Frenchman having no idea of it before he breakfasts. Dessein's hotel at Calais must be considered as an exception to this account; it has long been, and is still, the best inn in France. The familiar impertinence of the *filles-de-chambre*, throughout the whole country, is amazing; they enter your room at all times without

knocking, stay as long as they like, and will remain while you are undressing; and, if there happen to be two or more, they very coolly seat themselves and converse together; they seem to consider this office as a matter of course, and do not think it at all indelicate or improper. Indeed in France generally, in all ranks, there is a want of that feminine delicacy, decency, and modesty, for which the British are so justly and honourably celebrated; a people without those sweet proprieties of life, however exalted by mental superiority, however extolled for suavity of manners and address, are still a vulgar people. It would be unjust, however, to close this Sketch with an ill-tempered remark upon the French; they certainly are the most lively, good-tempered and obliging people in the world, and a person can scarcely visit them without coming back much delighted and improved.

FINIS.

INDEX.

N. B. The figures refer to the number of the articles, and not to the page, except where the articles are not distinct enough to be numbered

A.		C.	
ABBEVILLE	No. 12	Caen	No. 17
Agen	67	Cahors	69
Aix	87	Calais	1
Alby	70	Cambray	8
Alençon	43	Canal of Languedoc	73
Amboise	169	Carcassone	64
Amiens	10	Carpentras	83
Angers	47	Castelnaudry	65
Angoulême	52	Castres	71
Annonay	146	Cette	73
Antibes	89	Chalons sur Marne	132
Arles	78	Chalons sur Saône	151
Arras	9	Chamberd	168
Auch	58	Chantilly	108
Aurillac	109	Charente	Page 24
Autun	150	Chartres	No. 171
Auxerre	161	Chartreuse, Grande	98
Avignon	79	Chateau, a French	Page 104
Avranches	20	Chateaudun	No. 119
		Chateauroux	166
		Chatillon sur Seine	153
		Chaumont	159
		Cherbourg	18
		Clermont	107
		Colmar	142
		Compeigne	125
		Cottages, French	Page 108
		Coutances	No. 19
B.		D.	
Bar-le-Duc	133	Dieppe	13
Bayonne	55	Dieu, Isle de	34
Bazas	54	Digne	92
Beaucaire	77	Dijon	152
Beauvais	123	Douay	6
Belle Isle	29	Dress	Pages 11, 106, 109
Besançon	156	Dunkirk	No. 2
Beziers	72		
Blois	167		
Boulogne	11		
Bordeaux	53		
Bourg en Bresse	147		
Bourges	163		
Brest	26		
Breteuil	122		
Briançon	96		

INDEX.

E.			Mende	No. 102
Embrun	No. 95		Metz	136
Epinal	158		Mezieres	129
Evreux	120		Montargis	162
			Montelimart	100
F.			Mont de Marsan	57
Poix	60		Montpellier	74
Fontainebleau	172		Mont St. Michel	21
Fontenay le Comté	40		Morlaix	25
Fontevraud	49		Moulins	165
France	Pages 3, 94, 104			
Frejus	No. 91		N.	
			Nancy	137
G.			Nantes	41
Gap	94		Narbonne	63
Garonne	Page 93		Nevers	149
Grasse	No. 90		Niort	50
Gravelines	4		Nismes	75
Gray	155		Noirmontier Isle	33
Grenoble	97			
Guerande	32		O.	
Gueret	115		Oleron Isle	36
			Orange	81
H.			Orient, L'	30
Havre de Grace	17		Orleans	170
Hieres	87			
Hieres Isles	88		P.	
			Paris	174
I.			Pau	56
Inns, French	Page 111		Peasantry of France	Page 109
			Perigueux	No. 105
L.			Perpignan	62
Langres	No. 154		Plessis les Tours	117
Lannion	24		Poictiers	51
Laon	127		Pont du Gard	76
Laval	46		Pont St. Esprit	82
Lectoure	68		Prades	61
Lemans	45		Privas	101
Limoges	106		Puy, Le	111
Lisle	5			
Loches	118		Q.	
Loire	Pages 26, 27		Quimper	28
Lons	No. 143			
Louviers	15		R.	
Luneville	139		Rennes	42
Lyons	113		Rhe, Isle de	35
			Rheims	131
M.			Rhodez	103
Macon	148		Rhone	Page 47
Manners, customs, &c.	Page 104		Roanne	No. 114
Mars	No. 45		Rochelle	39
Marseilles	85		Rochfort	38
Mehun sur Yeure	164		Rouen	14
Melun	173			

INDEX.

S.		Toul	No. 138
St. Brieux	No. 23	Toulon	86
St. Claude	144	Toulouse	66
St. Cloud	Page 101	Tours	116
St. Etienne	No. 112	Trappe, La	44
St. Flour	110	Travelling, French	Page 111
St. Germain	121	Trianon	102
St. Malo	22	Troyes	No. 60
St. Omer	2	Tulle	104
St. Quentin	128		
Saintes	37	U.	
Sassenage	Page 58	Ushant Isle	27
Saumur	No. 48		
Sedan	130	V.	
Seine	Page 15	Valence	99
Senlis	No. 124	Valenciennes	7
Sisteron	93	Vannes	31
Society, State of	Page 104	Varennas	134
Soissons	No. 126	Vaucluse	80
Strasbourg	141	Versailles	Page 101
		Vesoul	No. 157
		Vienne	145
T.			
Tarascon	77		
Tarbe	59	W.	
Thionville	135	Wissenburg	140

A LIST

OF

Improved BOOKS, &c. for Children,

RECENTLY PUBLISHED BY

WILLIAM DARTON, JUN. 58, HOLBORN HILL,

Opposite ELY PLACE, LONDON.

1. **A FIRST OR MOTHER'S DICTIONARY FOR CHILDREN**, containing upwards of Three Thousand Eight Hundred Words, which occur most frequently in Books and Conversation; simply and familiarly explained, and interspersed throughout with occasional Remarks: the Whole adapted to the Capacities of Younger Pupils. By ANNA BROWNELL MURPHY, 18mo. price 4s. 6d. bound.

2. **THE FIRST OR MOTHER'S CATECHISM**; containing Common Things necessary to be known at an Early Age. By the Rev. DAVID BLAIR. Price 9d.

3. **A SCHOOL DICTIONARY**, or Entick's English Dictionary abridged, and adapted to the Use of Schools, containing only the Roots of Words, and those of Importance and Utility, and omitting derivative, obsolete, vulgar, and unusual Words. By the Rev. DAVID BLAIR, Author of the First or Mother's Catechism. Third Edition, with numerous Improvements, price 3s. bound.

4. **THE JUVENILE SPECTATOR**; being Observations on the Tempers, Manners and Foibles of various Young Persons; interspersed with such lively Matter, as, it is presumed, will amuse as well as instruct. By ARABELLA ARGUS. Two Vols. 12mo. price 4s. 6d. each Vol. bound.

5. **THE WONDERS OF THE MICROSCOPE**; or, an Explanation of the Wisdom of the Creator, in Objects comparatively minute; adapted to the Understanding of Young Persons. Illustrated with Five large Copper-plates. Price 4s. 6d.

6. **THE WONDERS OF THE TELESCOPE**; or, a Display of the Starry Heavens, and of the System of the Universe: calculated to promote and simplify the Study of Astronomy. With Fourteen Plates. Price 6s.

7. **THE GEOGRAPHICAL PRIMER**, designed for the Younger Classes of Learners, and calculated to advance them, by natural and easy Gradations, to a perfect Acquaintance with the Elements of the Science: with an Appendix, containing Fourteen Hundred Questions on the principal Maps. By J. H. WIFFEN. 18mo. 3s. bound.

8. **DIX'S JUVENILE ATLAS**, containing Forty-four Maps, with plain Directions for copying them; designed for Junior Classes. 4to. half-bound, price 10s. 6d. plain, or 14s. full coloured.

9. **TALES OF THE ROBIN** and other small Birds. By JOSEPH TAYLOR, price 2s. 6d.

BOOKS, &c. published by W. DARTON, Jun.

10. **THE UNION ATLAS**, containing Thirty-eight new and improved Maps of all the Empires, Kingdoms and States in the known World; designed as a Companion to the various Gazetteers and Books of Geography now in Use. The whole clearly engraved by artists of eminence, and carefully coloured; including Maps of the Roman Empire and of Ancient Greece. Imperial 4to. price, half-bound and full-coloured, 20s.

11. **A DESCRIPTION** of the most remarkable **TREES, PLANTS** and **SHRUBS** in all Parts of the World; illustrated with several curious Anecdotes of their wonderful Properties, and, at the same time, manifesting infinite Wisdom in the Formation of those valuable Productions, so beneficial to all Mankind. By **JOSEPH TAYLOR**, Author of *Tales of the Robin*. 12mo. price 4s. sheep lettered.

12. **THE WONDERS OF ANIMATED NATURE**; consisting of Descriptions at large and engraved Representations of the principal Animals and Birds in the Royal Menageries of London and Paris. Translated from **LA CEFEDE**, with considerable Additions by the English Editor. 8vo. half-bound, price 8s.

13. **PORTRAITS OF CURIOUS CHARACTERS IN LONDON, &c.** &c. with descriptive and entertaining Anecdotes. Price One Shilling. Containing Likenesses of the following singular Characters:—**Nathaniel Bentley, Esq.**—**Ann Siggs**—**Martin Van Butchell**—**John Statham**—**Anne Longman**—**John and Robert Green**—**Tom and his Pigeons**—**Roger Smith**—**George Romondo**—**Toby, or Sham Abraham**—**Sir John Dinely**—**“Brother John and I”**—**Ann Johnson**—**Samuel Horsey**—**Miss Theodora de Verdion**, who dressed as a man—**Daniel Lambert**—**Mary Jones**—**A well-known Carver in Fleet-market**—**John Elwes, Esq. the Miser**—**The Flying Pie-man**—**Thomas Laugher**, aged 109 Years—**Daniel Dancer, Esq.** The above Portraits are accompanied with a Biographical Sketch of each Character, which will be found highly interesting.

14. **THE FRENCH AND ENGLISH PRIMER**; or, **An Easy Vocabulary** of Twelve Hundred Common Words, for the Use of Children. By the **Abbé Bossut**. Price 9d.

15. **A TOUR THROUGH ENGLAND**, described in a Series of Letters from a Young Gentleman to his Sister. With Copper-plates. Third Edition, revised, price 3s.

16. **A VISIT TO LONDON**, containing a Description of the principal Curiosities in the British Metropolis. With Six Copper-plates. Price 2s. 6d.

17. **A VISIT TO A FARM-HOUSE**; or, **An Introduction** to various Subjects connected with Rural Economy. Embellished with beautiful Plates. Price 2s. 6d.

18. **MARY AND HER CAT**, a Tale for good Children, chiefly in Words of Two Syllables. Price 1s.

19. **JUVENILE PLUTARCH**, containing Accounts of the Lives of celebrated Children, and of the Infancy of Persons who have been illustrious for their Virtues or Talents. With Plates. Two Vols. Price 5s.

20. **THE ORPHAN BOY**; or, **A Journey to Bath**. Founded on Fact. By **MARY BELSON**. Price 2s. half-bound.

21. **THE TRUE HISTORY OF A LITTLE BOY**, who cheated himself. Founded on Fact. With appropriate Cuts. Price 1s. 6d. coloured, or 1s. plain.

GAMES.

22. NEWTON'S NEW GAME OF VIRTUE REWARDED AND VICE PUNISHED, for the Amusement of Youth of both Sexes; on Canvas, with a Case and Tetotum, Counters and Pyramids, complete. Price 9s.

23. NEWTON'S NEW GAME OF THE MANSION OF BLISS; on Canvas, with Tetotum, Counters and Pyramids, complete. Price 9s.

24. THE SEVEN PUZZLES; on Canvas, in Case; designed for the Entertainment of a Winter's Evening. Price 2s. 6d.

25. WALKER'S NEW GEOGRAPHICAL GAME; exhibiting a Tour through Europe; on Canvas, and Case, with Tetotum and Counters, complete. Price 6s.

26. WALKER'S GAME OF ENGLAND AND WALES; a new Geographical Pastime; on Canvas, and in Case, with Tetotum, Counters, &c. complete. Price 6s.

27. WALKER'S TOUR THROUGH IRELAND; a new Geographical Pastime. Price 6s.

28. WALKER'S TOUR THROUGH SCOTLAND; a new Geographical Pastime. Price 6s.

29. WALKER'S TOUR THROUGH FRANCE; a new Geographical Pastime. Price 6s.

THE FOLLOWING WHOLE-SHEET MAPS ARE CLEARLY ENGRAVED AND COLOURED,

Price 6d. each.

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Western Hemisphere, or New World | 19. Spain and Portugal |
| 2. Eastern Ditto, or Old World | 20. Italy |
| 3. Europe | 21. Turkey in Europe |
| 4. Denmark | 22. Ditto in Asia |
| 5. Sweden, Denmark, and Norway | 23. China |
| 6. Russia in Europe | 24. East Indies |
| 7. Russian Empire | 25. Persia |
| 8. Scotland | 26. Asia |
| 9. England | 27. Hindostan |
| 10. United Kingdom of England, Scotland and Ireland | 28. Africa |
| 11. Ireland | 29. North America |
| 12. France | 30. United States of America |
| 13. Holland | 31. West Indies |
| 14. Poland and Prussia | 32. South America |
| 15. Netherlands | 33. Arabia |
| 16. Germany | 34. Egypt |
| 17. Switzerland | 35. Greece |
| 18. Hungary | 36. Mercator's Chart of the World |
| | 37. Romanum Imperium |
| | 38. Græcia Antiqua |
| 30. A NEW WHOLE-SHEET MAP OF ENGLAND AND WALES, by Mr. Brooks, with the Whole of the Turnpike and other Roads, laid down with great Care; being a complete Travelling Companion. Price 6s. 6d. | |
| 31. DITTO ditto, in a neat Case, for the Pocket. Price 5s. | |

32. **WARD'S PLAN OF LONDON**, on a Sheet, coloured, price 1s.; and with the East and West India and London Docks, price 1s. 6d.

33. **DITTO**, on Canyas, in a Case, for the Pocket, without the Docks, price 2s. 6d.

34. **DITTO** ditto, with the Docks, in a Case, price 3s. 6d.

DISSECTED MAPS

Are submitted to the notice of Schools, and those who have the care of Youth, as affording them useful information, blended with amusement; all of which are of mahogany, and will not warp, and are warranted perfect.

ENGLAND AND WALES,	Price 3s. 6d.
THE SAME, - - - - -	7s. 6d.
THE SAME, - - - - -	10s. 6d.
EUROPE, - - - - -	3s. 6d.
THE SAME, - - - - -	7s. 0d.
THE SAME, - - - - -	10s. 6d.
THE WORLD IN HEMISPHERES,	5s.
THE SAME, - - - - -	7s. 6.
THE SAME, - - - - -	10s. 6d.

And every other kind of Dissected Maps, at various prices, according to their Size.

DISSECTED PUZZLES.

GOLDSMITH'S DESERTED VILLAGE; illustrated with very neat Engravings. The Poem is handsomely engraved on Copper, and will be found a Curiosity well adapted for the Purposes of a Present. Price 8s.

Price 4s. 6d. each,

MY FATHER, with coloured plates	MY GOVERNESS, - - -	Ditto
MY MOTHER, - - - - -	MY SON, - - - - -	Ditto
MY SISTER, - - - - -	MY DAUGHTER, - - -	Ditto
MY BROTHER, - - - - -	MY CHILDHOOD, - - -	Ditto
MY BIBLE, - - - - -	MY PONY, - - - - -	Ditto

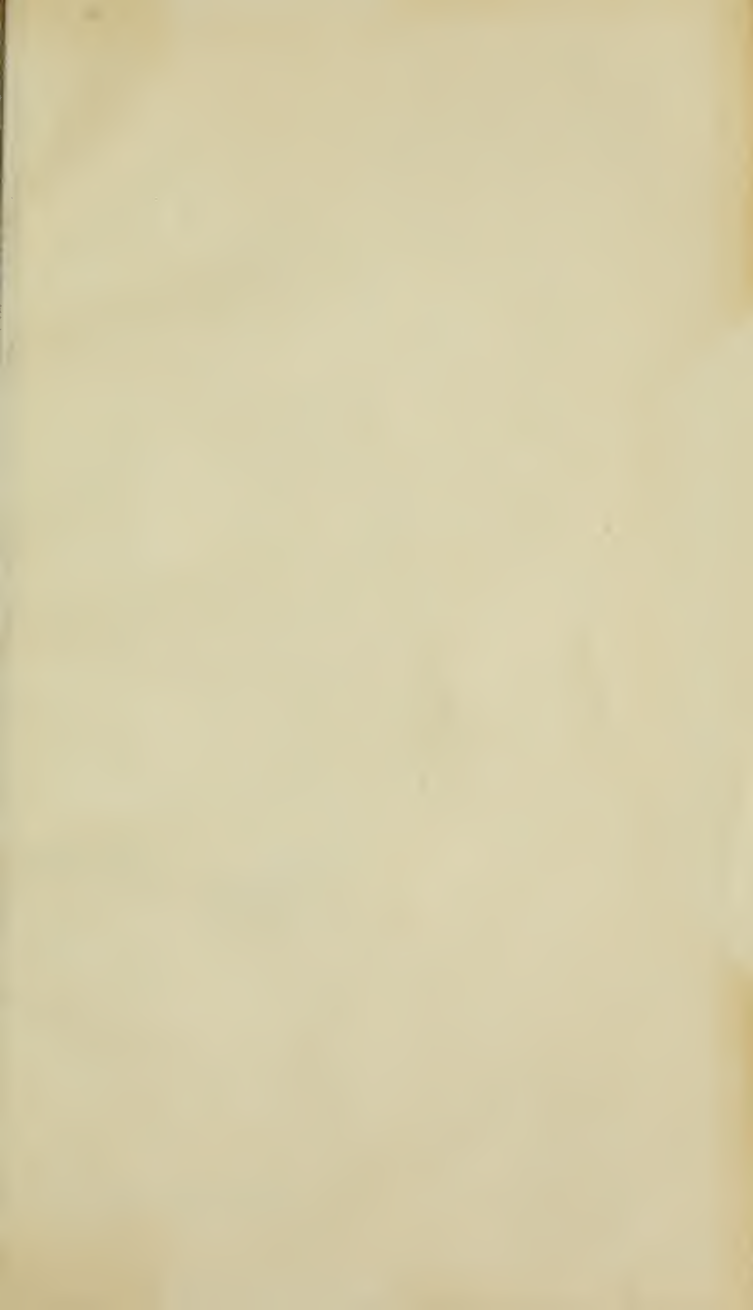
The Poem of **GRATITUDE**, with coloured Plates.

The Infant's Pastoral Hymn, called **MY SHEPHERD**; or, The Lambkin's Confession.

With a large Assortment of others, from 1s. 6d. to 8s.

SCHOOL BOOKS,

Of most kinds are also kept, and Schools supplied on the usual Terms.



SPECIAL

87-B

23149-2

THE GETTY CENTER
LIBRARY

